

Berri threatens to block polls

DAMASCUS (R) — Lebanese Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri said Tuesday he would block presidential elections due by September unless Lebanon's constitution was changed first. He told Reuters in an interview that to hold the polls without amending the constitution would be to approve a system which favoured the Christian minority over the Muslim majority. He said the system, under which the president is always a Christian, was intolerable and until it was altered there would be no end to bloodshed in Lebanon. Berri, who heads the pro-Syrian Amal militia, said he would form a national front to campaign against holding the election unless agreement was reached on political changes. "We confirm that we will oppose the presidential election if it is not preceded by a reconciliation," he said. "Frankly, we will try to delay the election until a national agreement is reached." Berri said the parties involved should reach a written accord on relations with Syria, the unity of Lebanon, resistance against Israel, security in southern Lebanon and security of U.N. forces.

Jordan Times

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Truce stops Fateh fighting

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A truce agreed in Damascus between several Palestinian factions halted two months of fighting in Beirut's battered Palestinian refugee camps Tuesday, Palestinian and security sources said. They said a team of representatives of eight Palestinian groups toured Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila camps to implement the accord reached in Syria Monday. Witnesses quoted by Reuters said weary refugees ventured out of damp shelters, shell-pocked tin shacks and concrete houses in the two camps, which were mostly destroyed in earlier battles against the Lebanese Amal militia. About 15,000 refugees live in the two shanty-towns. Officials from the mainstream Fateh group did not attend the ceasefire talks but a Fateh official in Beirut said the group had received a message from its command calling on its fighters to abide by the truce. "All the Palestinian organisations decided yesterday to end the fighting in the camps," said a spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the PLO's factions. "It is stopped," he added.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Junejo, Bhutto to discuss polls

KARACHI (R) — Recently-dismissed Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and a leading opposition leader, Benazir Bhutto, are likely to meet in a few days to discuss elections, opposition sources said Tuesday. They said Bhutto was ready to meet Junejo, who was fired by President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq May 29. Zia also dissolved assemblies and announced fresh elections within 90 days.

Top Israeli official visits Egypt

CAIRO (R) — A surprise visit to Cairo by a top Israeli official prompted speculation Tuesday that Israel and Egypt planned to discuss their outstanding differences. Egypt's national Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Avraham Tamir, director general of the Israeli foreign ministry, would hold important talks with Egyptian officials. But Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources said Tamir, who arrived unexpectedly Monday night, had not requested any appointments.

Ethiopia says rebels routed

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — Ethiopian troops have routed guerrillas from three towns in northern Tigre and Wollo provinces, including the important relief food distribution centre of Alamata, the Ethiopian news agency reported Tuesday. The state agency said the Third Liberation Army "has cleared the towns of Maichew and Amba Alage in Eritrea and Alamata, in Wollo, of terrorist bandit groups."

Ershad fires religion minister

DHAKA (AP) — President Hussein Mohammad Ershad Tuesday fired his religious affairs minister, but an official announcement gave no reason for the dismissal. The terse, one-sentence statement said: "The president has relieved Religious Affairs Minister Maulana Abdul Mannan of his responsibilities with immediate effect." It did not name a successor for Mannan.

Greece examines U.S. request

ATHENS (R) — Greece said Tuesday it was examining a U.S. request to extradite a Palestinian to face charges stemming from a 1982 explosion aboard a Pan American World Airways plane that killed one person and wounded 15. Justice Minister Agamemnon Koutsogiorgas said Mohammad Rashid was being held in an Athens prison and the Justice Ministry and "set into motion the procedure for the examination of Washington's request."

EEC appeals to Pretoria

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — The European Economic Community (EEC) appealed Tuesday to South Africa not to hang six blacks sentenced to death for participating in the 1984 mob slaying of a black mayor near the city of Sharpeville. In a statement, the EEC foreign ministers "expressed their deep distress and concern about the fate" of the five men and one woman, known as the Sharpeville six. On Monday, a South African court refused to order a retrial for the six.

OPEC Fund reelects chairman

VIENNA (R) — Finance ministers of the 13 OPEC states met in Vienna Tuesday to reelect the chairman and vice-chairman of the OPEC Fund for International Development. Venezuelan Finance Minister Hector Hurtado will serve for another year as chairman of the fund. The United Arab Emirates finance and industry minister, Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, was reelected vice-chairman.

British Labour aide quits

LONDON (AP) — A senior Labour Party official resigned Tuesday, plunging the opposition party into renewed disarray over moves to ditch its vote-losing pledge of unilateral nuclear disarmament. Legislator Dennis Davies, the party's top parliamentary spokesman on defence, said the "last straw" was a statement by party leader Neil Kinnock in a June 5 television interview that Labour's "something-for-nothing unilateralism" was outmoded. "I am fed up with being humiliated by Mr. Kinnock," Davies said in an announcement.

Israeli civil servants strike

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's 60,000 unionised civil servants went on an indefinite strike Tuesday, disrupting work at courts and hospitals and bringing Israel's railway to a halt. The strike also affected the interior ministry, which stopped issuing passports and identity cards, the employment service and the national insurance institute. At Ben Gurion international airport, only an emergency staff of ten out of 180 customs officials checked the luggage of passengers on incoming flights, Israel army radio reported.

Pakistan: No Iran nuclear pact

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan denied Tuesday reports that it had signed a secret nuclear pact with Iran. Reports claiming that the two countries have signed a secret pact to cooperate in the nuclear field have been published in the foreign press, said a Foreign Ministry spokesman. "Pakistan has signed no nuclear pact with Iran," the spokesman said. He said "No Pakistani scientist has visited Bushehr nuclear plant in Iran in recent years, nor are there Iranian nuclear experts receiving advanced training in Pakistan. The question of a secret pact does not arise because Iran is a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and its nuclear facilities are subject to international safeguards."

Howard Baker resigns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Howard Baker, named White House chief of staff in the aftermath of the Iran-contra scandal, will resign and be replaced by his deputy Kenneth Duberstein on July 1, it was announced Tuesday. In addition, White House Communications Director Thomas C. Grissom intends to leave his post, but has not said when he will leave, said White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater. Although Baker had promised President Ronald Reagan to stay until the end of the administration next January, he asked the president to be excused from that commitment, citing the ill health of his wife and stepmother, who are both hospitalised, Fitzwater said.

De Mita holds talks in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Italian Premier Ciriaco de Mita called on President Ronald Reagan Tuesday after meeting with Secretary of State George Shultz to discuss East-West relations and Middle East peace efforts. Reagan and de Mita posed for photographers in the Oval Office before beginning their talks, which were to include a luncheon and formal departure statements on the White House lawn. Shultz and de Mita met for an hour Tuesday morning, but no details of the talks were immediately available.

King delivers lecture, meets Soviet envoy

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein, who is currently on a visit to Britain, Monday delivered a lecture at London's Royal College of Defence Studies and also met with the Soviet ambassador to Britain, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra did not give details. It said the lecture and the King's meeting with Soviet Ambassador Leonid Zamyatin were attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi. The lecture was also attended by Jordan's ambassador to Britain, Dr. Albert Butros. The King arrived here Friday from Algiers where he attended an extraordinary Arab summit on



HM King Hussein

the Palestinian uprising. During his stay in London he is expected to hold talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Iraqis blunt Iran's thrust

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said Tuesday it had inflicted its third battlefield defeat on Iran within two months as Tehran unleashed its gunboats on Gulf merchant shipping for the third time in four days.

Baghdad said it crushed Iran's offensive after 19½ hours of bitter fighting in stifling heat across the marshes of the Buzayn and Kut Al Suwadi border posts in the Shalamchah district southeast of the port city of Basra.

Iraq claimed it killed or wounded more than 16,000 Iraqi troops and inflicted heavy damage on Baghdad's armed forces.

As Iraqi troops dug in around their captured positions Tuesday, three Iranian gunboats attacked the Singaporean-flag tanker Neptune Subaru with rocket-propelled grenades in the northern Gulf.

Iraq said President Saddam Hussein supervised the battle against Iranian forces that left hundreds of bodies littering the battlefield.

Iraq retakes peaks

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said it launched a major offensive in the rugged mountains near the northeastern town of Sulaymaniyah Tuesday and recaptured five strategic border heights from Iranian troops.

"Our forces stormed fortified enemy positions and killed or captured large numbers of enemy troops and destroyed their positions," a high command communique said.

It said the Iraqi force of infantry and commands was backed by jets, helicopter gunships, armour units and heavy artillery in the offensive.

Shultz sees missile race in Gulf

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Monday cautioned against further spread of nuclear weapons, and warned especially of an arms race in advanced missiles in the Iran-Iraq war.

Shultz spoke at a special General Assembly session on disarmament a week after Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze called on the United States to join in a permanent nuclear test ban. Shultz did not respond directly to a series of Soviet proposals.

"Does anyone doubt that the spread of nuclear weapons threatens regional and global security?" Shultz asked. "What state believes that, if it now ac-

quired nuclear weapons, its rivals would not do the same?"

He said that at the moment when the United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to reduce their nuclear arsenals, "it would be tragic for other countries to pursue the capability to cross the nuclear threshold."

In an apparent reference to Shivali India and Pakistan, Shultz said South Asia is the area of greatest danger.

"We encourage the states of South Asia to take concrete steps to meet this urgent challenge," he said. "The U.S. is prepared to work with countries inside and outside the region to find a lasting solution to the danger of proliferation that satisfies all parties."

Dukakis to 'replace' SDI

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michael Dukakis said Tuesday he would replace President Ronald Reagan's strategic defence initiative (SDI) with a "conventional defence initiative" to help defend Europe against Soviet attack.

He also refused to budge on his reluctance to label South Africa a terrorist state.

Dukakis, in a major foreign policy address at the State Department before a pro-North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) group called the Atlantic Council, said he was committed to "a NATO so strong and so united that no nation will be tempted to begin a war against U.S."

But the certain Democratic presidential nominee put the European allies on notice they must bear a greater share of the common defence burden.

Fielding questions after the speech, he said that if the Reagan administration could conclude a START agreement on long-range nuclear weapons in the remaining months of 1988, "I strongly urge the administration to go for it, and I hope they do."

He denied he was giving the Soviets a bargaining edge by announcing in advance his own opposition to the mobile MX and Midgetman missiles. But he said modernising the U.S. nuclear

arsenal was "an open question." Asked by Democratic Congressman Dave McCurdy if he agreed with his own representatives to the Democratic platform drafting committee that South Africa should be branded a terrorist state, Dukakis said, "I tend to resist labels generally because I don't know exactly what they mean."

"I think we've got to be very tough on South Africa. Constructive engagement's a failure."

Regent: Jordan has to carry burdens of Israeli occupation

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Tuesday that Jordan would continue to carry the burden of a difficult socio-

economic and demographic situation resulting from the 21-year-old Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

The Crown Prince told journalists that the Jordanian and Arab position in support of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the representative of Palestinian people in the occupied territories did not do away with the fact that Jordan has special economic and social considerations and interests in strengthening the steadfastness of the people in the occupied lands.

"Partial and bilateral issues may very well be handled between the PLO and Israel if an international peace conference is convened," the Crown Prince said. "But there remains the demographic dimension."

Prince Hassan said Jordan never sought a monopoly on economic development programmes for the occupied territories and that the Kingdom had called for an international programme with the involvement of international parties as well as other Arab states.

In a meeting attended by Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Taher Masi and Information Minister Hani Khasawneh, the Regent said Jordan worked for two decades, carrying the burden of the demographic impact of the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

He deplored positions that cast doubt on Jordan's intentions behind supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation.

"For Jordan to shoulder such responsibilities and be attacked sometimes by the same people who ask for our support is something we totally reject," the Crown Prince said. "There is an overwhelming emotive current sweeping the region in support of the Palestinian identity," he said.

The Regent said that the way the Palestinian issue was handled by last week's Algiers Arab summit was ineffective and impractic-

al in terms of chances for implementation. "What is the use of gathering money in the name of the intifada

if we cannot get the money into the occupied territories?" he

(Continued on page 5)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, meets with journalists Tuesday (Petra photo)

Israel seeks measures to counter forest fires

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israelis held emergency meeting Tuesday to try to come up with ways to end a string of fires, many believed set by Palestinian activists, that have wiped out thousands of acres of forests and fields.

A group of Jewish and Arab village leaders launched a drive to recruit volunteers for fire watch patrols. Police and agents set up information centres, University professors promised help from their students.

The widespread destruction of woodlands, the latest anti-Israeli tactic used by Palestinians during the six-month-old uprising, has spurred an angry outcry among Israeli Jews.

Israel's army chief of staff said Tuesday that underground leaders of the uprising had urged Palestinians to start forest fires and hurl fire bombs to maintain their revolt.

Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee that Palestinians, whose main weapon throughout the uprising has been stones, could turn to firearms, political sources said.

"Since they realise they can no longer stage big demonstrations, they have turned to molotov cocktails, arson and firearms," the sources quoted Shomron as saying.

"In their efforts to keep the intifada in the headlines, they have turned to the molotov cocktail as a last resort," he said.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, on a tour of the West Bank town of Al Bireh, said the army would either seal or demolish the homes of Palestinians who threw petrol bombs.

The Israeli army said there were no violent protests in the West Bank. Palestinian sources said troops shot two protesters in the legs during a demonstration in the Jenin refugee camp Monday night.

Two other Palestinians were wounded during the night when a Jewish settler opened fire on protesters who stoned his car, the sources said.

A military official said Monday the Israeli authorities plan to resort to financial pressure to curb protests in the occupied territories by requiring parents of stone-throwers to make cash deposits of about \$3,100.

The official said parents in the Gaza Strip would be required to hand over 5,000 shekels (about \$3,100) to obtain the release of their children from custody when they are caught throwing stones.

If the children are arrested again for throwing stones, the money would be kept as a fine against the parents, the military source told the AP.

Israeli soldiers besiege UNIFIL

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli forces surrounded a U.N. base in southern Lebanon Tuesday after Norwegian peacekeeping troops refused to let them set up a post nearby, a U.S. spokesman said.

"The Israelis ringed the Norwegian position with barbed wire and forced 50 troops to stay inside the small base," said Timur Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

"Both sides are facing each other but there is no sign of any clashes," he told Reuters.

Goksel said the Israelis acted after the U.N. troops refused to let them set up a post near the

peacekeeping base south of the village of Hebbariye and inside Israel's self-declared "security zone."

"An Israeli position near our posts would increase tension in the region. We are trying to solve this problem by discussing it with Israeli officials. We hope we will reach a solution," Goksel said.

Security sources in the port town of Tyre told Reuters Israel wanted to set up a new post in Hebbariye to improve its domination of the area and prevent infiltration by resistance fighters.

Israeli troops killed four Amal militiamen Tuesday in a gunbattle about 40 kilometres southwest of Hebbariye.

Resistance fighters frequently attack Israeli troops and their local allies in the "security zone."

U.N. sources quoted by the AP said Norwegian and Israeli troops were facing each other with fingers on gun triggers as flares illuminated the skies over the foothills of Mount Hermon.

"They're still squared off in a tense confrontation," one U.N. source told the AP. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Norwegians are among some 5,700 UNIFIL soldiers who deployed in South Lebanon in 1978 to supervise an Israeli withdrawal and restore Lebanese sovereignty to the area.

A Norwegian U.N. soldier was wounded last Friday in an exchange of machinegun fire with members of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army.

Jordan denounces Awad expulsion

AMMAN (J.T) — Jordan Tuesday denounced the Israeli occupation authorities' expulsion of Maharak Awad, a Palestinian activist with American citizenship who advocated non-violent resistance to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

"Israel's expulsion of this Palestinian uncovers the occupation authorities' imperialistic mask," Occupied Territories Minister Marwan Duda was quoted as saying by the AP.

He said Awad "has recorded a new era of Palestinian struggle." "This era," Duda told the AP, "is a new method of struggle for maintaining the Arab identity which is only rejected by suppressive and discriminating regimes."

The United States also has condemned Awad's expulsion Monday. He had been charged with inciting the six-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Awad said Tuesday he would try to rally public opinion to pressure the Zionist state to allow him to return to the occupied territories.

"My immediate plan is to try to have a Palestinian peace movement and try to bring the Palestinian issue to the American public," he said on CBS's "This Morning" programme. He said he planned to give lectures and meet with government officials.

"I want to bring my ideas to the public, to say: 'There is something wrong there and there is injustice over there' the Jerusalem native said on ABC's "Good Morning America" show.

Awad said that as a last resort, he may convert to Judaism to take advantage of Israel's law of return, which says any Jew can come to the Zionist state.

"If it takes for me to be a Jew to go back there, I'm willing to do it," he said. "But in the beginning, I have to try other means."

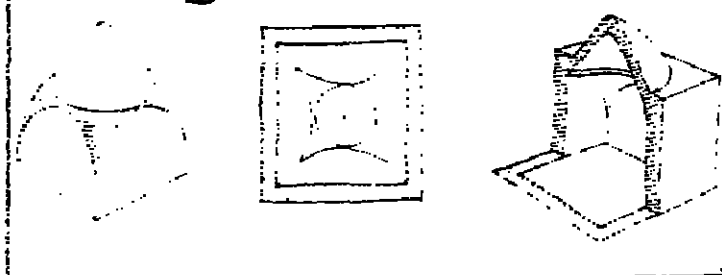
Awad arrived in New York late Monday after he was expelled.

He has denied inciting violence against Israel but has supported the uprising in the occupied territories.

"I didn't incite any violence at all," Awad said Tuesday.

"I believe in non-violence." "I believe that Palestinians who are oppressed have to fight injustice through non-violent means."

Village Architecture



The following article is part six of Ammar Khammash's exhibition catalogue entitled *Notes on Village Architecture in Jordan*, which the Jordan Times is serialising. The work was part of the requirement for his Bachelor degree from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL). Photos and sketches appearing with these articles were first exhibited at USL in March 1986. The publication of the book was funded by The Royal Endowment for Culture and Education, of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation. The book is available for sale at the foundation's head office at the Housing Bank Complex.

Tibneh

The site

LOCATED 14 kilometres south-west of Irbid and nine kilometres west of Samad, this site is in what has traditionally been the most populated part of Jordan. There exist within a 3-kilometre radius from Tibneh three other villages: Kufir al Ma' to the west, Al-Ashrafveh to the south-west, and Inbeh to the north-east. This region, called Kura, lies between one of Jordan's greenest forests and the rugged land east of the Jordan Valley.

The forest southeast of Tibneh is probably the best preserved and largest stand of oak in the

country. There is relatively little settlement within the confines of the forest although it is surrounded by many villages. Unlike the trees of the forest of Al Aluk south of Seil ez Zarga, the oak here is evergreen. The trees are smaller but denser and of a darker green, and in many spots they cover the mountains completely. The western edge of this forest is a relatively flat plateau that is divided into parts by steep valleys running westward and filled with a strip of villages running north to south. Being an average distance of two kilometres apart, these villages form the western borderline of the mountain



Olive tree from Roman times

Where roads don't reach and olives are 2,000 years old

architecture. Beyond them to the west is comparatively empty land composed of hills whose eroded sides expose layers of chalk and limestone inimical to plant growth.

The first portion of flat land east of the Jordan Valley supports a strip of villages; Tibneh lies between these and other mountain villages scattered to the east. Thus, its site is a link that makes it a stronghold in the area. Tibneh's location is significant because of deep valleys that separate it from the surrounding villages. These valleys, which run almost parallel from southeast to northwest, constitute the physical borders of the site: Tibneh is located where they come within the shortest distance of one another, 1.5 kilometres, before they diverge again. On both sides of the site, the altitude drops dramatically. The valley to the northeast of Tibneh, Wadi Ain Sirin, drops 200 metres below Tibneh's altitude of 600 metres. The valley to the southwest, Wadi Al Naha drops 140 metres below Tibneh.

The topography of the land makes this site extremely inaccessible. Even with modern road-building technology available, there is no road between Inbeh and Tibneh, little more than 2 kilometres apart. In travelling from one village to the other, one has to make a detour of 18 to 20 kilometres to avoid the deep Wadi Ain Sirin. Only two other villages are located on the same mountain range, Zubia and Rhaba, one kilometre apart and seven kilometres southeast of Tibneh.

The village

Tibneh is located on the south-east side of a mountain top, and from Jabal Al Ajami it is apparent that this village has lost most of its original fabric. Even though Tibneh does not have a modern internal road system, it is extensively developed and has concrete structures that overwhelm the traditional stone structures in size and number. The village is growing mostly to the southeast where modern houses unfortunately have begun to invade the edge of ancient olive groves.

Approaching Tibneh from the eastern side one can see parts of a wall that seems to be the remnants of a village wall. "Tibneh used to have a wall. It had only two gates — a gate near the castle and a gate to the qiblah (south)." "There used to be around Tibneh a wall, like Akka."

On the northern side of the village, where lie remains of what is called the "castle," is a large depression which was once an old pool. Approximately 12 x 20 metres and 4 to 5 metres deep, it is now dry. Another pool near the "gate," southeast of the village, became the site for a new mosque.

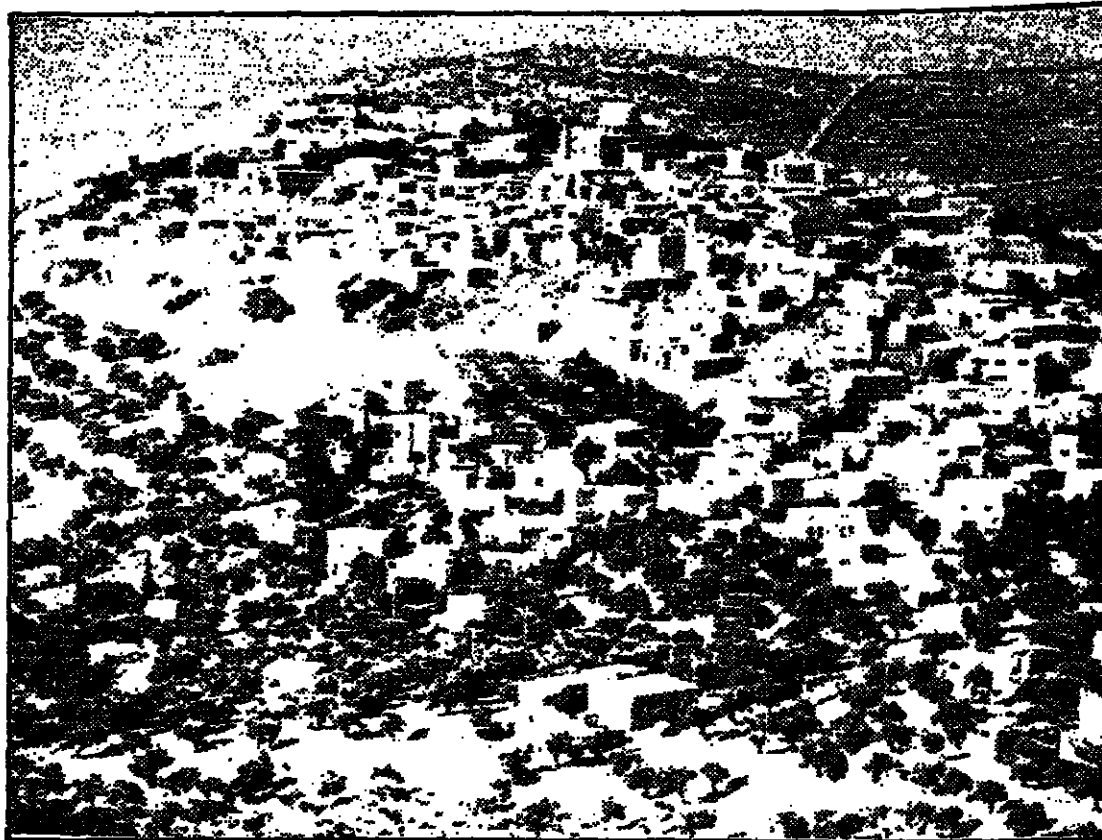
Towards the north at the highest part of Tibneh a ruin known as the "castle" is now comprised

only of two rooms with cross vaults and a staircase built into the wall that leads to the roof. The structure is of the Ottoman period: "This castle is Turkish; it was for the Zayadneh." It was very likely built in the early eighteenth century which seems to be when the wall was also built.

My first day in Tibneh

I arrived in Tibneh the afternoon of Thursday, July 2, 1985. When I asked for a place to stay for a week or two, the villagers found an empty shop for me and gave me the key to the lock on its metal rolling shutters. I moved my belongings in, then left to tour the village.

Along a winding pedestrian road that ties the upper parts of Tibneh with what has recently become the centre of the village, I made my first purchase. The large jar was kept on the roof of a small tabun in the courtyard of a house. When I entered the courtyard and asked if I might buy this jar, I was told by the women that it was not for sale. Then I asked to talk to an old man I could see sitting inside the house by the door. Abu Nhar (I was told later that he was then 103 years old) was well dressed in traditional garb. Feigning ignorance, I asked him about the jar which he asked me to take down from the roof. I climbed up and handed the jar to the young women who started to inspect it and dust it. It was a wheel-thrown olive oil jar with a rounded base and two handles, one of which was broken. Preparing to ask its price, I started pointing out the defects — its broken handle and a crack in its base. At the same time I asked if they had any locally made pottery. The three young women disappeared into the dark interior of the house and came out with two small pots, both containing the remains of antiquated olive oil. One was a pitcher with a long neck and a handle connecting the rim of the pitcher's neck to its shoulder. Capped with a stick in its spout, it was covered with the oil and dust of years. When Abu Nhar started scrubbing the pitcher, its original appearance started peeping through the peeling gray layers. Strips of brownish glaze seemed to be dripping from the top to the bottom of the vessel's surface, and other streaks of dark red dye appeared as though applied with a brush whose bristles had separated. Both the pitcher and the other small jar were wheel-thrown and slightly ribbed. They were not local but brought in from specialised pottery makers in Palestine. I bought the three pieces, the big jar and the two small pots, for five dinars and carried them to the shop where I was staying. When I came back to get the change I found that Abu Nhar had gone looking for change in the village and had not yet returned. I sat waiting on the steps of the courtyard gate, and after a few minutes I saw a fragment of a broken clay smok-



Tibneh as it appears from Jabal Al Ajami

ing pipe on the ground. I picked it up and asked the young women, who were still watching from inside the courtyard, if they had any complete pipes for sale. Laughing, they fetched one pipe which, though slightly chipped on its rim, did not look very old and was of a type I had not seen before. I did not pay for this pipe until I was given another one, which was much older and more ornamented than the first.

Abu Nhar asked if I would like to see another big jar filled with olive oil. This jar was huge, perhaps 1.5 metres high, and was placed in a hole inside the house with only its upper half in view.

I spent the rest of the day around the old mosque which, as I learned, has a large cave beneath it. I took some photographs and went back to the shop at the close of daylight. That evening two boys arrived about the same time, bringing me pots of tea along with small, clear glasses. I spent the rest of the evening drinking tea and reviewing events of the past day.

Olive trees

The land southeast of Tibneh has one of the best preserved olive groves in Jordan, filled with olive trees that go back to Roman times. The groves still enjoy an environment that is relatively free of roads and development, and on dark red soil the ancient trees grow fruitful and healthy. The density of the olive trees is noticeably high. In the flat parts of the land between Tibneh and Jabal Al Ajami the trees are growing in a rough grid within such a short distance of each other that the tips of their branches often touch. They are of the same size and all

have huge trunks which are often hollow. In some cases the core of the trunk has completely decayed, leaving a collection of smaller olive trees growing in a circle on the perimeter of the disintegrated mother tree. They are remains of the living skin of a trunk that dissolved with time. All the trunks have wide bases which terminate in gnarled and twisted roots that look like the toes of a creature 2000 years old. The soil around these roots seems to have receded over the centuries, leaving the trees on lofty bases. The trunks appear as braided roots, dark gray interweaving strands reaching the top of the trunks and branching out into limbs with silver-green leaves and olives displayed against the still blue sky of Tibneh. These olive trees have interesting proportions; their trunks are far too wide for the amount of foliage they support, which not only gives them a visual disproportion, but also gives them torsion that makes them look creature-like. From Jabal Al Ajami olive groves appear as a woven shade of silver-green against the complementary red of the soil — a scene of utter delight.

Even though the inhabitants of Tibneh added very few new olive trees in the last century, the large quantity of old trees is significant, and olive production in Tibneh has made this village well known for its olive oil. Tibneh's agriculture is for the most part dependent on the ancient olive trees. Other crops include cactus and grapevine. Some of the remains of the traditional olive oil industry are scattered around the village; an almost complete olive press sits by the road near the entrance to Tibneh. The traditional process of extracting oil

from the olive is complicated and is different in Tibneh from other villages. Described briefly, "We boil the olive and spread it on the roofs of the houses till it hardens. Then we press it."

The mosque

Mosques as traditional structures are hard to find in Jordanian villages. To my knowledge, there are only a few cases in which a village has a mosque that is built in stone and is as old as the traditional village houses. In most cases mosques are concrete structures built within the last 30 years.

Tibneh has three traditional mosques. One is a small building at the northern side of the village; it is a simple rectangle with an exterior staircase leading to part of the roof which was used as a minaret. Another mosque is now part of the first floor of the Shraideh house. The third is the largest and the most representative of a traditional mosque. Called by the people of Tibneh "Ej Jame'a El Qadim," meaning the old mosque, it is one of Tibneh's landmarks. It is built on a bluff of rock, the southern edge of the tableland that forms the upper part of Tibneh's site. This location makes the old mosque easily seen from a distance, and, because of the different nature of its stone, it is quickly distinguished from the houses of the village. Underneath the rock where this mosque is built lies a cave that is almost as big in plan as the interior of the mosque. This cave is reached from the courtyard of a house northeast of the mosque and was once privately owned by Musa Tojeh. Simply and powerfully proportioned, the mosque's plan is perfect square, 12.5 x 12.5

metres, approximately 5 metres high. The exterior walls are constructed of flat-faced stones of equal size, 24 x 34 centimetres. The elevations are simple: The front elevation faces northwest and contains the main entrance to the building. This entrance is set off-centre, to place it symmetrically would have been impossible since supports for the interior cross vaults occur in the middle of each wall. The entrance is not monumental but is small with a segmental arch that once had a stone with an engraved message above it. The southwestern elevation has an almost square window, and the other two elevations are identical. They each have a protrusion in the centre that gives the exterior effect of a mihrab. These protrusions are carried on corbelled stones and are placed on the two elevations that are on the edges of the rock, the two most visible elevations for someone approaching Tibneh from south or east. These two symbolic mihrabs, signs fixed on the exterior walls, served the purpose of identifying the building to a visitor who, if he did not know anyone in the village, would look for the mosque for rest.

Upon entering, one first sees the true mihrab which faces the entrance and, thus, is off-centre, and does not correspond with the symbolic mihrab on the exterior of the building. From inside, one can see the way in which this mosque is constructed. The interior is divided into four equal squares, three of which exhibit cross-vaulted ceilings that meet in the centre of the mosque and rest on a square column. The fourth, where the mihrab is located, is treated differently. Since that part of the mosque is in ruins, it is hard to tell how it used to be, but remains of pendentives suggest that the ceiling of that quarter of the mosque was a dome. This theory makes sense if we keep in mind that this quarter of the building also contains the mihrab which justifies a special treatment of the ceiling. Also, the fact that this part of the mosque is destroyed supports my assumption, for a thin dome would be the first section to collapse.

The western corner has a staircase leading to the roof where the muezzin used to cry the summons to prayer. This staircase is built into the thickness of the wall and is just wide enough for one person. It begins about 2 metres above floor level, suggesting that the first few steps were in the form of a wooden ladder, now gone.

It is difficult to date this mosque, but, based on the stories of the elders, it would be safe to say it is Ottoman. It is very possible that the mosque was built by the Zayadneh in the eighteenth century when they were ruling in Tibneh. It has lain in partial ruins for at least a century. "It was ruined from its eastern side, and no one could rebuild it. We used to pray in it even though it was ruined."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:30 Programme review
15:35 Cartoons
16:30 Local programme
17:00 Local series
18:00 Message from Cairo
18:15 Football match: Britain vs. Holland (live)

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Champs Elysees
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Arabic
20:00 Guinness Records
21:00 Hooperman
21:30 Twilight zone: Night Crawlers
22:30 News in English
22:30 Drama Series: "The Outer Kingdom"

RADIO JORDAN

655 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 88.0 KHz. SW Tel: 77411-19

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show Contd.
10:00 Jordan Weekly
11:30 Songs from Movies
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Readings
13:00 Pop Session
14:00 News Summary
14:30 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 The Young Sound
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News in Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favorites
17:00 Jordan Weekly
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Science Report
18:30 Music
19:00 News Desk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary

21:05 Evening Show Contd.

21:05 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show Continued
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show Continued
23:57 News Headlines
24:00 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

630, 720, 1323 KHz

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 Newswatch 07:30 Time for Verse
07:35 Network Africa 07:40 Book Choice 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News 08:00 World News 08:09 24 Hours: News Summary 08:30 Report on Religion 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newswatch 09:30 Meridian 10:00 World News Summary 10:30 Development '88 11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 Classical Record Review 11:30 Brain of Britain 11:45 Folk in Britain 12:00 World News 12:09 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup 12:45 Jazz Scene U.K. 13:00 News Summary followed by Omnibus 13:30 A Word in Edgeways 14:00 World News 14:09 News about Britain 14:15 Time for Verse 14:25 A Letter from Wales 14:30 Meridian 15:00 Radio Newswatch 15:15 Great Love Duets 15:25 The Farming World 15:45 Sports Roundup 16:00 World News 16:09 Twenty-Four Hours '88 17:00 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News 17:45 Sportsround 18:00 Radio Newswatch 18:15 Education Today 18:30 King Street Journal 19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary 19:15 Comment 19:45 The World Today 20:00 World News

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 720, 9565, 17740, 11925 and 15210 KHz

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 News 07:10 News 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 08:30 Newsline 09:00 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning 10:30 Newsline 11:00 News 11:10 Newsline 11:30 VOA Morning 11:30 Newsline 12:00 News 12:10 Newsline 12:30 VOA Morning 12:30 Newsline 13:00 News 13:10 Newsline 13:30 VOA Morning 13:30 Newsline 14:00 News 14:10 Newsline 14:30 VOA Morning 14:30 Newsline 15:00 News 15:10 Newsline 15:30 VOA Morning 15:30 Newsline 16:00 News 16:10 Newsline 16:30 VOA Morning 16:30 Newsline 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 VOA Morning 17:30 Newsline 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 VOA Morning 18:30 Newsline 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 VOA Morning 19:30 Newsline 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 VOA Morning 20:30 Newsline 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 VOA Morning 21:30 Newsline 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 VOA Morning 22:30 Newsline 23:00 News 23:10 Newsline 23:30 VOA Morning 23:30 Newsline 24:00 News 24:10 Newsline 24:30 VOA Morning 24:30 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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AL AHLI SCHOOL: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday attended the graduation ceremony of Al Ahli Children School, which was held at the Hussein Youth City and presented the 50 graduating students with their certificates.

DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE: Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid Thursday opened a new division of the Holy Land Institute for the deaf and dumb in Salt. During the opening ceremony, he praised the efforts exerted by those who run this institute and called for giving the handicapped the necessary attention and care to integrate them into society. He later presented certificates to the graduates and toured the institute's sections.

HAI HASSAN VISITS CAA: Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khalid Hai Hassan Tuesday visited the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) where he was briefed by its Director Mahmoud Balqaz on the authority's work and the progress made on the expansion of the Aqaba airport. The Minister also visited the Queen Noor Civil Aviation Technical College and Amman airport, and inspected the new facilities there.

HAMZEH MEETS WHO AIDE: Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Tuesday discussed with a visiting World Health Organisation (WHO) expert, issues pertaining to primary health care. The WHO expert is currently on a visit to Jordan to discuss prospects for undertaking a study on primary health care.

THIEVES APPREHENDED: Public Security teams have apprehended three gangs of thieves who specialised in stealing cars and valuable items and money, Public Security sources said Tuesday. The sources added that one of the gangs used to rent taxis and to ask their drivers to drive to remote areas south of Amman and then to ask them to stop, and subsequently rob them of their cars and money.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION: Public Works and Housing Minister Shafiq Zawahid Tuesday discussed with the Karak governor a number of issues, relating to the construction of agricultural roads and improving main and side roads in the governorate.

OMANI DELEGATION: A delegation of students from the Sultan Qaboos University in Oman visited the headquarters of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) on Tuesday and were briefed by its secretary general on voluntary and charitable services that GUVS provides in Jordan.

GOVERNOR VISITS WADI ARABA: The governor of Maan Tuesday inspected public services in Wadi Araba south of the Dead Sea and met with the local residents to enquire about their living conditions and demands. The governor met with the local district governor and officials to discuss electricity, water, telephone and health services to the local population, and schemes being carried out in the district by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA).

TOURIST GUIDES: Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni Tuesday chaired a meeting for the tourist guides, during which he called for the formation of a professional tourist guide society or union that combines all professional tourist organisations. After the meeting a new administrative committee for tourist guides was elected.

468 GRADUATE: University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday graduated 468 students from the faculty of arts, including 106 students from the Faculty of Law and awarded them their certificates.

IRBID EXHIBITION: Irbid Governor Akram Al Naser Tuesday opened an exhibition of items produced by the vocational training centre at Hakama near Irbid. The exhibition which will last seven days displays samples of the students' production.

Expatriates to discuss investment in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — An information committee preparing for the fourth Jordanian Expatriates Conference held a meeting Tuesday to discuss steps to be taken for covering the event through an international network that would group radio, television and the press.

The conference will be held this year under the title "the expatriate and the development of the homeland", and at least 600 expatriates from different parts of the world have so far applied to take part in the conference which will open on July 11, according to the Director of the Expatriate Affairs Department at the Ministry of Labour and Social Development Azmi Al Muhtasab.

Jordanian exporters visit European markets

AMMAN (J.T.) — Which winter fruits and vegetables produced in Jordan will Europeans buy? What quality tomato will sell in Germany? Do the French want peppers packed in styrofoam or wood cartons in 5 kilogramme or 10 kilogramme containers?

Eighteen fruit and vegetable producers recently travelled to markets in France, Germany, England, and Holland to gather firsthand information that will guide their efforts to export Jordanian produce.

Upon completing their observation tours, they met in Amman to collectively identify constraints to exporting and to recommend actions that will enhance export opportunities.

The European economic market observation tours were led by Peter de Balogh, a senior marketing specialist.

Participants included Jordanian producers and exporters, and several officials of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation, and Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company.

The activity was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Thief nabbed in Aqaba

AQABA (J.T.) — A thief identified by the police as 22-year old K.S.Y. was apprehended here following a series of thefts and robberies in the port city over the past four months, according to Al Ra'i Arabic daily.

The paper said the thief was in the habit of breaking into stores on Friday nights to steal cash and electrical appliances before fleeing the city.

One of the victims was a money changer who reported the loss of JD 3,800 and another was a group of young men living in a lodging who together reported that more than JD 300 were stolen from their home.

According to Aqaba Police Director Colonel Salem Hiyari, the thief used to leave Aqaba for Amman immediately upon breaking into the stores and stealing cash and other items.

He said the Police Department here received the first complaint from the public on Jan. 11, 1988, and the last one on May 11, 1988. They had to work out carefully laid plans to apprehend the man, who was finally caught while trying to board a car heading for Amman.

Hiyari said that the thief had committed a total of 17 thefts before he was apprehended. He said a large amount of the stolen cash has been retrieved and returned to the legitimate owners.

CORRECTION

Due to a translation error, the Jordan Times erroneously reported Tuesday that the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) was supervising the Jubilee School Project with UNICEF. The report should have read that the NHF was supervising the project with UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) and the British Council. The Jordan Times regrets the mistake.



REGENT MEETS SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday received in his office a group of Arab and foreign women who participated in a seminar on needs of women in management and leadership positions. The seminar, organised by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund, ended Monday. The Regent reviewed issues

related to women's role in development and Jordan's interest in developing human resources with particular focus on women. He said the seminar held in Amman would give positive results towards addressing the needs of Jordan and the Arab region. The meeting was attended by Royal Court Secretary-General Bassam Saket and Higher Committee for Science and Technology member Mazen Armouti.

Jordan to have 216 new schools

MADABA (Petra) — Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi announced here Tuesday that new school buildings will be built in the Kingdom between 1988 and 1994 to replace rented buildings which serve as schools at present, and to give further impetus to the educational process in the country.

Speaking during a tour of the Madaba district, where he inaugurated a number of educational schemes, the minister said that

the school projects will be carried out in two stages, the first entailing the construction of 216 schools at a cost of approximately JD 300 million which will be obtained in loans from the World Bank, the Social Security Corporation and the treasury.

The second stage entails spending JD 232 million to build 520 smaller schools, the minister noted.

Hindawi said that the projects are essential to enable the Ministry of Education carry out the

resolutions taken at the Jordanian educational conference held in Amman last year under royal patronage.

At the outset of the tour, the minister opened a vocational school for girls which has workshops and other facilities and 28 class rooms, a preparatory school for girls which has 10 class rooms, and laid the foundation stone for a new building to house the Department of Education.

Iraqi Minister visits Jordan Valley

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Iraqi Minister of Agriculture Karim Hassan Rida Tuesday toured a number of agricultural and tourism projects in the Jordan Valley accompanied by his Jordanian counterpart Marwan Himoud.

Iraqi Minister first stopped at the Dead Sea Resthouse where he met with district officials and

mayors of local towns, and was briefed on the development of the region.

The two ministers called at the Anida Tomato Processing Plant and met with the Jordan Valley Authority director and officials, who gave details on schemes carried out in the Jordan Valley

region, stretching 110 kilometres from the border with Syria in the north to the Dead Sea in the south.

The projects, they said, include dams, schools, health centres and water irrigation projects which benefit some 160,000 residents of the valley.

Amnesty seeks to open office in Jordan

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Amnesty International, a human rights organisation, has renewed a three-year-old effort to open an office in Jordan, and a senior member of the organisation is here to discuss the possibility with Jordanian officials.

Head of Amnesty's Membership Department for the Middle East, Ahmad Uthman, told the Jordan Times that an application to establish an Amnesty branch in Jordan was submitted by a preparatory committee made up of 15 prominent Jordanian citizens in 1985, but it was rejected.

However, Uthman, a native of Morocco, is more hopeful this time. "There is a chance the application will be accepted since the Amnesty branch in a particular country does not gather information on prisoners in that country," he said.

The research for Amnesty is centralised in the international secretariat of the organisation in London. The job of the branches, which are located in more than 60 countries, is to react to the information they receive.

The information reaches the branches in the forms of a monthly newsletter, an annual report and urgent releases. Uthman explained that addresses, telex, telegrams and facsimile numbers of the responsible government members are included.

"Members of the branches and supporters of Amnesty International then write to these people denouncing the treatment of some prisoners, as a means of putting pressure on the government," he said.

Despite the methods Amnesty uses, some countries have refused setting up branches in their countries. Tunisia was cited as an example by Uthman: "The government refused to establish a branch, but they allowed groups of supporters of Amnesty to operate. Only this year they permitted legal registration of the branch."

Amnesty International has earned credibility through its tight system of checking information. Information the organisation receives is checked with that of other contacts. In addition every country has a team of Amnesty staff members in the research department of the international secretariat.

According to Uthman, the team builds relations with other human rights organisations, lawyers and professional syndicates, and is held responsible for gathering information. Often the teams go on fact finding missions to the areas.

He noted that since the intifada began in the occupied territories, five fact finding delegations from the international secretariat have visited the West Bank and Gaza. "The Israeli government has not refused the missions and has been very responsive in answering all the letters they have received worldwide condemning the violence."

Amnesty has built a network of groups which specialise in "immediate action to the occupied territories. These people have the background already. After the international secretariat receives the information and checks it. The information is then transferred to this group, who add it to the prepared dossier which con-

tains the text of laws, offensives, etc.," said Uthman, adding that such procedures allow for immediate reaction.

However, Amnesty has not been able to ask for the immediate release of Palestinian prisoners. According to Uthman, the procedure asking for the release takes longer than the three to six months most Palestinians spend in prison, since most of the Palestinian prisoners during the intifada were put under administrative arrest.

Moreover, Uthman pointed out that Amnesty can not make exceptions to those who do advocate violence and yet are prisoners of conscience. "As a non-political organisation with a narrow mandate, Amnesty cannot make exceptions."

"Amnesty calls for the release of prisoners of conscience, those who have been put in prison because of their political or religious beliefs, for their sex, language, ethnicity, origin or race, provided they do not advocate violence. These people, according to international laws and standards, should not be put in prisons and Amnesty calls for their immediate and unconditional release."

However, for all prisoners, Amnesty seeks a fair trial and stands against any torture or degrading treatment. The delegations witnessed several trials in the West Bank and Gaza, and have met with families of Palestinian prisoners, lawyers, Arab and Jewish human rights organisations and government officials.

After every visit, Amnesty issued news releases on the unfair trials, arbitrary arrests, tortures and killings, arrests of journalists, and the sealing of the occupied

Jordan calls on Arabs to extend social security to agricultural workers

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Tuesday urged Arab countries to introduce changes in their social security systems to open the way for agricultural workers and farmers to benefit from social security laws.

The Social Security Corporation (SSC) Director General Mahdi Farhan, who made the call at a pan-Arab meeting, said that the Arab nation is giving increasing importance to the role played by agriculture in the national economy, to ensure food security for the Arab World and enhance the Arab nation's capability to pursue the struggle for further progress and prosperity.

Farhan was addressing a symposium organised by the Khar-toum-based Arab Centre for Social Security to discuss the question of providing protection to farmers and agricultural workers against occupational injuries.

He told the meeting, which included representatives from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Sudan, that in the first year of its initiation in 1980, the SSC spent a total of JD 227,000 in compensation to workers. The amount rose gradually over the years to become JD 10 million in 1987.

This year, he said, the SSC is expected to pay JD 12 million to workers in social security compensation and occupational risks.

Reviewing the SSC operations and experiments over the years, Farhan said that every year the corporation has been expanding its operations and covering both Arab and foreign citizens employed in Jordan as well as Jordanians working abroad.

The total number of people covered by the SSC now stands at

470,000; and the corporation pays pension to 4,570 beneficiaries who number around 30,000, Farhan noted.

He said that the SSC has so far paid compensation to 80,000 workers and paid for the treatment of 40,000 medical cases since its establishment eight years ago.

Over the past years, the SSC has spent a total of JD 34 million in compensation, pension and other expenses, Farhan noted.

He paid tribute to the Khar-toum-based centre which was set up by the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) to promote inter-Arab cooperation in social security matters and to conduct research work and studies in the field of social security.

The centre's Director General Salah Siraj, made a speech at the

opening session praising Jordan's pioneering role in the field of social security and the country's achievements in a relatively short period of time.

Siraj outlined to those attending the meeting the main operations and objectives of the Khar-toum centre and gave details about training courses and seminars organised for the benefit of employees in national security corporations.

Participants in the five-day meeting will hear lectures on world-wide efforts to provide security for workers in the field of agriculture and Arab countries' experiments in this field. They will also review working papers submitted by participating countries.

Among those present at the opening session was Minister of tourism Zuhair Ajlouni, Arab ambassadors, representatives of agricultural organisations and agricultural research centres, Jordanian universities and representatives of social security organisations in the Arab World.

Khayyat, Pakistani team discuss Islamic issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Tuesday discussed with a visiting Pakistani delegation, issues pertaining to legislation, usury, zakat (alms), wergild (blood money) and other Islamic issues.

The delegation will discuss the possibility of drawing up regulations for an Islamic bank that does not deal with usury. They will also explore new methods for finance in accordance with the Islamic Law.

Khayyat welcomed the delegation's mission, saying: "Jordan has gone a long way in applying Islamic values in all institutions."

The ministry's Secretary General Abdul Salam Al Abbadi reviewed with the delegation, the ministry's achievements in the field of Waqf property development, pointing out in particular the debentures law, which has been drawn up by the ministry to develop Waqf property. He also said that the ministry was behind the issuance of the Jordan Islamic Bank Law.

Abbadi added that Jordan was the first country to draw up a civil law, based on Islamic jurisprudence (Fiqh), noting that it has been implemented in Sudan and United Arab Emirates. This law has been approved by the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice as a basis for a pan-Arab law.

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Murder and robbery suspects brought to trial

AMMAN (J.T.) — The trial of a group of seven men accused of committing a number of armed robberies in Jordan and murdering four innocent citizens between November 1987 and March 1988, continued here Tuesday.

Several witnesses took the stand identifying the group members who were seen touring the scene of the crime at Wadi Seer area.

The group's trial was first held behind closed doors at the military court before resuming in open sessions on Monday.

The seven-member gang is accused of murdering people in the course of committing robberies, according to Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

Majali, who announced the capture of the group on May 30, said that the men killed an army officer who at the time was carrying the salaries of his unit in a military bus. The assailants riddled the military vehicle with bullets killing the officer and escaping with JD 19,000, Majali noted.

AGREEMENT SIGNED



AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Mineral Water Company (Safa) Tuesday signed an agreement with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), under which the RSS will undertake periodic quality control tests of the natural mineral water, produced by the company.

Signing the agreement for the

RSS was its Vice President for Industrial Services Arafat Al Tamimi, while it was signed for the company by its Director General Thabet Alwir, in the presence of the company's board of directors' Vice-Chairman Fuad Farraj, Director of Industrial Chemistry Department Murad Bino and a number of the department's researchers.

Opening of Al Bahama Terrace at Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel



Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel announces that the Al Bahama Terrace, overlooking the swimming pool, is now open for customers. The terrace can accommodate some 200 persons and is ready to offer food and drinks all day long.

Breakfast, dinner and lunch can also be served in the open air. By opening this terrace, the hotel management is seeking to modernise and expand the services offered to the customers.

Jordan Times

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MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:

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Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 666265-2

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Israelis tread different paths in search of 'pure state'

By Mahmoud Abbas

The writer is member of the PLO executive committee and Head of its Department for pan-Arab relations and relations with non-governmental organisations. The article is reprinted from the Belgrade-based Review of International Affairs.

THE REVOLT of the Palestinian people still goes on and is becoming stronger. During celebrations of the "Day of the Land" (March 30) all Palestinians on the territory of Palestine occupied in 1948 and 1967 joined in the uprising. Under these circumstances George Shultz toured the Middle East. However, the interested Arab governments refuse to reveal their appraisal of Shultz's plan before Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister who has already several times turned down the idea of convening an international conference, states his views.

It remains to be seen how the Jews generally consider all this. The climate created among the Jews by the Palestinians' revolt is one of confusion. This is easily discernible. One can read about criticism, anger. Even mutual reprimands may be read in the papers, or heard about over the radio, or watched on television. However, regardless of differences, all of Jews, with the exception of the members of the movement "Naturi Carta" are united in the search for a solution that would ensure the survival of the state of Israel. They all agree that the present times are turbulent and the best possible solution should be found, however each one views this from his own angle.

Some consider Israel should pull out of the occupied territories in favour of the Palestinians. Others consider the problem might be resolved in conjunction with the help of Arab states. Others again consider the problem can be solved by annexation and banishing the Palestinians from the annexed territories.

All these approaches start out from the theory of a "pure Jewish state." They only differ over how this should be achieved. Some are in favour of withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, otherwise one day Israel might be faced with the reality of becoming a bi-national state. Others think a purely Jewish state could be established by annexation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and gradually pushing back the Palestinians over the River Jordan.

The adherents of one theory are quick to see the flaws in the approach of the others, but essentially both have the same objective. They only differ in method. The fierce polemics among the Israelis gain in momentum with the escalation of the Palestinians'

revolt. Such is the state of affairs among all Jews, those in Israel and those all over the world. The Jews in the "diaspora" are concerned over the fate of Israel and that country's reputation, for so far Israel was held to be an "oasis of democracy" in the desert of the Middle East and in the "underdeveloped Arab Ocean" ruled by "dictatorial" and "fascist" regimes. Furthermore many Israelis were "astonished" that the occupied territories are inhabited by an autochthonous population, the homogenous Palestinian nation, and that the Gaza Strip and the West Bank are occupied and not "liberated" territory, as declared by the information, education and cultural media of the Israeli state. These Israelis have now discovered that the continued occupation of these territories has become impossible. In such a frame of mind these Israelis are asking themselves: Why are we here. Why do we not leave the others in peace? How long shall one people oppress another people?

Such questions are being asked more and more often by soldiers, intellectuals, university teachers, artists and party functionaries. In reply, the ruling circles put another question: Who will guarantee that if we withdraw from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, they will not then demand Haifa, Jaffa, Lod and Ramla?

This explanation is understandable for although they do not admit it, the ruling circles know very well that before occupying the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, they also occupied Haifa, Jaffa, Lod and Ramla. They also know very well that conceding they have no right to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip means they must admit they have no claims to Haifa, Jaffa, Lod and Ramla either. They, therefore, consider it best to cling to their own claim: "All Israeli land is ours, and all others are intruders." Otherwise any withdrawal would bring in its wake a new withdrawal, and no one would then know how far this would go.

This is how the essentially Zionist way of reasoning was developed, the reasoning of the aggressor, of the predator who cannot admit he attacked his victims and seized one part of their land after the another. Conversely, if he admits that he has seized one part, he must, by the force of logic, admit his original onslaught



MASADA, 1983

and that he stole it all. Therefore the bravest among the "victims" say openly: "we are willing to accept compromise solutions, let each side give up part of its dreams, aspirations and what it considers its own."

When Moshe Amiraf met Feisal Al Hussein he said: "You must forget Haifa and Jaffa, and I must forget the East Bank." When he said this Moshe Amiraf realised that Feisal Al Hussein was thinking about the return of Haifa and Jaffa, for they had been his. Feisal and his people had lived there for centuries, this he could not forget, ...forget his own history? However, when Amiraf spoke about the East Bank he was speaking about his dream. Actually Amiraf substituted dreams for history in order to conceal historical truths.

If we were to judge by what Amiraf and like-minded Israelis say, we might consider this as an indication of withdrawal. Let us consider this and study it carefully in the light of the existing objective and subjective political circumstances surrounding the Palestinian people and the Palestinian cause. Matters are clear: Amiraf, having learned from history, is striving to save a part in order not to lose the whole, while we want to get back a part, having lost all. We would like to find a common language even with Amiraf and his likes.

Jews in the world today are confused. They hear so many vicious and contradictory theories. What is their substance? There have always been differ-

ences in appraising the status of the state of Israel, especially between the Jews living in Israel and the Jews living outside Israel. The Israelis think that Israel should be the home of all Jews, that an end should be put to the "diaspora" and that all Jews should move to the state of Israel. However the great majority of Jews living the world over — if not all of them — and especially those in the U.S., think otherwise. They consider that they have found safety, that they are living in peace and they are not prepared to give this up. However, this does not mean they have no understanding for Israel; and this they express in various ways, they tender their support if this does not clash with American interests. The Jews in other countries support the Israeli government's policy by tradition, they do not meddle in its affairs and they give assistance commensurate to the support and aid of the states where they live.

More recently however, matters have acquired a different aspect. The controversies in the Israeli government have caused a rift between the two blocs making up the present ruling coalition. At the same time, political groups and forces are in collision, with each other, and with major groups. All this inevitably reflected on the frame of mind of the Jews in the world who have begun to voice their views on what is happening in Israel. The point is that they no longer believe in the Israeli government's ability to resolve the issue fairly.

This was clearly expressed by Professor Yeshayahu Leibovich addressing "Red Line" demonstrators, when on March 2, 1988 they set out for Jerusalem from the northern borders of Palestine. He said: "I have heard about the reactions of Jews in the world who say they are ashamed of the state of Israel," and added: "As a Jew I ask myself is there any need at all for us to found a state of which we shall be ashamed? If the present state continues such as it is it will inevitably become a fascist state where concentration camps are being built not only for the Arabs but for the Jews who oppose its policy (Yediot Akhronot — 3. March 1988).

If we add to this another important fact — the American government's official attitude and its disagreement with the Israeli prime minister, which means actually a U.S. disagreement with the greater part of the ruling Israeli administration — we can understand the reasons for the American Jews' behaviour. The same applies to the Jews in Europe, Canada and Latin America, for they give due account to their respective governments' stands towards Israel.

It is important here to point out something which many analysts, political commentators and journalists have overlooked — the fact that the present conflict is a direct collision between the Palestinian people and Israel. If we except the 1982 siege of Beirut, the present conflict is for the first time so clearly between the immediate parties to the conflict — between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Since 1948 Israel has constantly been trying to present its wars as wars between Israel and all Arabs. This it did in order to create the following impressions:

First: Israel alone is confronting all the Arabs, and in itself this wins it greater international benevolence.

Second: In this way Israel has shifted to the background the principal factor in all these wars, the Palestinian factor.

However, under the circumstances created by the present revolt, Israel can no longer ignore the Palestinian factor, for the Palestinians are at the heart of the conflict. In such a conflict Israel is using all available weapons and means while the Palestinians, banded together, are fighting only with faith in the justice of their cause.

Faced with this fact many Israelis and many Jews in the world have been forced to admit that there is a Palestinian nation in Israel and they condemn Israel for its shameful actions, not because they want to condemn Israel, but because they are trying to save its reputation and honour.

All this explains the background of the present "Jewish battle of views" being waged in various different ways and judged in an unusual manner to which we are no accustomed. True, there have been similar cases even earlier: Especially during the 1973 October War and after the siege of Beirut in 1982. However, the present form of the "Jewish War" differs by violence and proportions, and the danger is that it has become known clearly and in public that these disagreements have spread to the Israeli establishment. This has happened mainly because of the coalition structure which cracked as soon as it became adequately necessary to resolve the situation created by the revolt and its repercussions on the international stage. It became necessary to respond suitably to the actions of the international community, of America in particular. One should further stress that American action is geared to liquidating the revolt and preserving the state of Israel, which represents the U.S.'s most vital national interest in the Middle East.

Ancient Jewish history created the "Massada" complex. "Massada" was a fortress on the Dead Sea. Here the Jews were besieged, and when they had lost all hope of being relieved, they decided to commit suicide. Hence the saying: "When the Jews are besieged they resort to suicide."

Some feel they are now living in a state of siege and their only thought is to break out of the encirclement or to kill themselves, nothing else. However, the great majority of Jews are not in such a frame of mind. Therefore they reason more calmly and can look more freely, they need not kill themselves.

In this context it is worth pointing to the democratic Israeli forces who have managed, realising the present, to foresee the future. They have made their visions known, they are at the same time striving to make contact with the PLO in the hope of finding a common platform, and even consolidating joint formulations. These forces are considered pioneers in the search for a peaceful solution which would ensure for one and all security, stability and survival within the boundaries of what is possible and available. These forces, though few in numbers, with limited possibilities and potentials, and despite the inadequate support they enjoy in Israel, are nonetheless persisting in their struggle and demands. We believe that they will meet with increasing understanding and support thanks to current trends which confirm and support their views, their forecasts and practice.

Clarity through dialogue

THE meeting yesterday which grouped His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, several senior government officials and members of the local press touched upon an issue that is central to all that comprises the state and people of Jordan: The relationship between Jordan and Palestine, and the duties and responsibilities of both parties. The issue has always been viewed as a sensitive one, more suited to private than to public discussion. But political reality and history have a way of imposing themselves on the landscape, and the period before and after the Algiers emergency summit has forced us all to reassess key elements of a relationship that goes back to the early days of this century.

We remain convinced that only through open and honest dialogue can such issues be dealt with in the most constructive manner. We also have absolutely no fears of such a process, convinced as we are that the dominant sentiment among both peoples is to work together in pursuit of common pan-Arab goals, while also allowing for expressions of distinct political identities, as His Majesty the King indicated in his speech to the Algiers summit when he was reviewing the Jordanian position vis-a-vis Palestinian national goals. Jordan and the Hashemite family have been deeply involved in the Palestine problem since its inception, and have made significant sacrifices as a result of this. The duties and responsibilities of both parties need to be clarified, within the context of similar bilateral ties between other Arab states, if we are both to play the most appropriate role in seeking to see justice done to the Palestinians, and to see the Arab states enjoy the fruits of peace and stability.

Only through frank and comprehensive dialogue can such important issues be fully clarified to the satisfaction of all parties, and only with such clarity can all parties work together effectively for the common good.

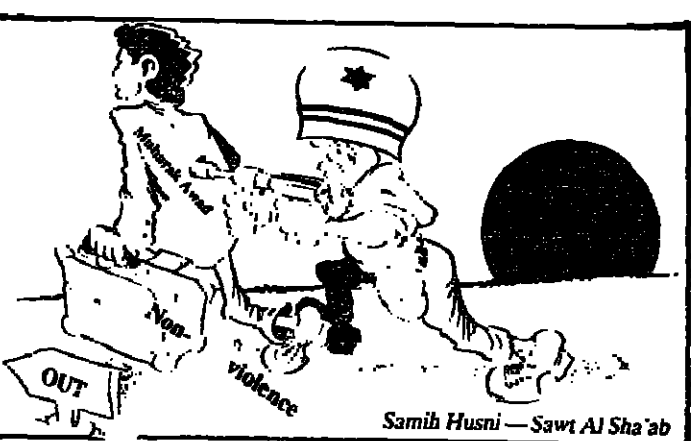
ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: More summits needed

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai has described the Algiers summit meeting as successful and reaffirmed the fact that meetings among Arab leaders are of paramount importance for serving Arab national causes. Such meetings, he said, are considered necessary for coordinating Arab countries' stands on all issues of concern to their nation. The Algiers summit's success followed that achieved at the Amman summit in November and set the stage for future successes by Arab heads of state who ought to meet regularly and look into matters of national interest. In view of the on-going Gulf conflict, the uprising in the occupied Arab territories and the non-ending crisis in Lebanon, Arab leaders ought to maintain their close coordination to find solutions to these questions and other problems that used to divide the nation. In his statement published by Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper, Rifai referred to the positive atmosphere that prevailed at the Algiers summit, reminiscent of that which dominated the Amman summit six months earlier. The Arabs in both summits thwarted their enemies' wishes to see the Arabs divided and split over issues of national interest. The Arab leaders were successful and they ought to do every thing in their power now to maintain their solidarity.

Al Dustour: Uprising unveils Israel's face

THE present escalation of uprising in the occupied Arab territories has refuted Israel's claim that, given time this uprising will subside and die away. What is happening now is a real revolution engulfing the whole Arab area under Israel's rule, thus conveying to the outside world a totally different picture from that which Israel was trying to paint. What is happening now is a national struggle bolstered every day by the determination of the oppressed people to regain freedom and by the sacrifices they have already offered towards achieving national objectives. Regardless of the cost they are paying in confrontation with the Israeli troops, our kinsmen seem to be determined to pursue the struggle and to maintain their uprising as long as their lands are occupied and as long as they face repressive measures and terrorism. The uprising is entering its seventh month with the Palestinians more determined than ever to thwart Israel's designs and to end the occupation and its ugly image. The new upsurge of anti-Israeli thinking in the occupied Arab territories has shown that Israel's wishful thinking can never be realised and that the Israelis, who failed over the past months to quell the protests, will never be able to stifle the spirit of resistance.



Samih Husni — Sawt Al Sha'ab

Sawt Al Shaab: Iran's designs defeated

IT is becoming evident that the Iranians can never achieve any victory in the Gulf war, nor can they export their revolution to Iraq in view of the might of the Iraqi armed forces and the Iraqi people's determination to thwart any Iranian expansionist designs in Arab land. The recent Iraqi successes at Fao and the Shalamche districts and the defeat of the Iranian forces prove beyond any doubt that the Iranians are in no position to pursue a losing war against an Arab Nation determined to defend itself from aggression. The latest Iranian assault east of Basra was met with a strong Iraqi defence, and the invading troops were crushed and were dealt an ignominious defeat. The defeats of the Iranian forces at the battlefield have been causing splits within the Iranian hierarchy and deep discontent among the Iranian people. The recent changes in the military leadership inside Iran can not compensate the Iranian people for their defeats and their discontent.

Latin America's last military strongmen defy U.S.

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

MEXICO CITY — Latin America's three last military strongmen are openly defying the United States, once a power that could make or break Latin governments with ease.

Washington takes credit for having encouraged the democratic wave which has swept Latin America since 1979, when Ecuador became the first of 10 countries to switch from military rule to democracy.

But the United States has been unable to drive from power Latin America's remaining generals: Panama's Manuel Antonio Noriega, Chile's Augusto Pinochet, and Paraguay's Alfredo Stroessner.

"The dictators are thumbing their noses at Washington as if to show that the days of the big stick are over," said a Latin diplomat, referring to the late President Theodore Roosevelt's remark that U.S. policymakers should "walk softly and carry a big stick."

These days, the Americans tend to walk softly but carry a small stick, say critics of the Reagan administration. During more than seven years of Ronald Reagan's presidency, U.S. prestige in Latin America has declined markedly.

Panama is a case in point, analysts say. Few countries have been tied to the United States as closely as Panama, where more than 10,000 U.S. troops are stationed along the banks of the strategic U.S.-run Panama Canal.

U.S. influence is evident from McDonalds hamburger restaurants to television soap operas. Through much of its history, Panama was run from the U.S. embassy as much as from the presidential palace.

The case of Panama

But for all its close ties and long dominance, the United States has been powerless to dislodge Noriega, a 50-year-old career officer who was treated as a trusted ally before Washington began siding with his domestic opponents a year ago.

Since then, Noriega has weathered figurehead President Eric

Arturo Delvalle's attempt to unseat him as armed forces chief — which ended with the ousting of Delvalle. A few weeks later, Noriega survived a coup attempt and crushed his army opponents. Diplomats say both efforts had U.S. encouragement.

A U.S.-engineered cash crisis wrecked the service-based Panamanian economy but neither that nor a cut-off U.S. aid budgeted the defiant general. Noriega also shrugged off a U.S. indictment on charges of having turned Panama into a conduit for Colombian cocaine.

And Noriega made a mockery of statements by senior Washington officials such as Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams who in March reported that the general was hanging on "by his fingertips."

Three months later, his grip on Panama as firm as ever, Noriega told a U.S. newspaper: "I am not going anywhere. I cannot abandon my responsibility (as military ruler) nor give up my destiny." Washington's efforts to pressure Pinochet and Stroessner into giving way to democracy have been less noisy than the Panama campaign but equally unsuccessful.

The United States welcomed the 1973 military coup which brought Pinochet to power in Chile. Washington long regarded Paraguay's Stroessner as a staunch and reliable ally in its international crusade against Communism.

U.S. support for right-wing military rulers waned over the last decade or so and by 1985, the Reagan administration proclaimed that Paraguay and Chile must follow their neighbours in adopting democratic rule.

Rude treatment

"The answer, then and now, is 'no,'" said a Latin American ambassador in the Paraguayan capital, Asuncion, recently. "And it is 'no' because neither Stroessner nor Pinochet believe their survival depends on good relations with the U.S."

Paraguay looks toward its giant neighbour, Brazil, for trade, aid and cooperation on such projects as the huge Itaipu dam. Chile receives no U.S. aid and does not

depend on trade or cooperation with the United States.

As a consequence, the United States has suffered rude treatment from both countries.

A telling piece of evidence of Paraguay's disdain for the mighty power to the north sits on a sideboard in the office of U.S. Ambassador Clyde Taylor: A tear gas grenade in a glass display case. Wedged behind the grenade is a Christmas card.

Taylor, who arrived in Asuncion in November 1985, and quickly incurred the wrath of the Stroessner government by meet-

ing opposition leaders, criticising human rights abuses and frequently calling for a transition to democracy.

In Chile, U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes took up his post that same month and infuriated his host government for much the same reasons.

Both envoys have been vilified routinely in the official press of their host countries but only in Paraguay did the distaste for Washington's representative take physical form.

Last year, police lobbed a tear

gas grenade at Taylor at a dinner party given in his honour by an opposition group known as Women for Democracy. Before being allowed to enter the home where the party was held, a policeman stopped Taylor and demanded to see his identification.

The grenade on his sideboard is a twin of the dinner party grenade. The Christmas card, Taylor explained recently, was sent by the police officer who ordered the attack.

With appeals for a political opening falling on deaf ears in

Paraguay, the United States has added the dispute over drugs to its anti-government arsenal.

According to the State Department, Bolivian cocaine runners have bribed senior government officials into allowing the establishment of a new cocaine pipeline across Paraguay.

The charges echo those levelled against Noriega — and some diplomats in Paraguay believe they will have precisely the same effect: Stiffen Stroessner's resolve to stand firm against the United States.

East, West agenda expands

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

LONDON — Eastern and Western European countries are shaking up a cocktail of arms talks, human rights demands and economic ties, with each side wanting a brew to its own taste.

The main prize is an agreement at the 35th annual European Security Conference in Vienna, which would allow ambitious new talks to start on East-West troop cuts on the continent, while also laying out a new charter for respect of personal freedoms.

But progress towards the agreement is being blocked by what Western diplomats say is the unusual spectacle of discord among the East Bloc countries, with Romania trying to water down the section of the final document dealing with human rights.

These diplomats, who only three weeks ago were confident the 19-month-old conference could be wound up by the end of July, its latest deadline, now fear it may have to reconvene after a summer break unless the impasse is overcome.

Without acceptable wording on human rights, NATO countries say, they will not agree to launch the force reduction talks, covering manpower and weaponry in all Europe "from the Atlantic to the Urals."

The balance between the secur-

ity and humanitarian angles has been a feature of European security conferences ever since the Helsinki Declaration in 1975.

But liberal reforms in the Soviet Union since Mikhail Gorbachev took over the Kremlin helm three years ago have emboldened the Western countries.

Support for reforms

During his May 29-June 2 visit to Moscow, U.S. President Ronald Reagan, with speeches to Soviet dissidents and religious figures, managed to draw more public attention to human rights than to arms control.

A NATO foreign ministers' meeting in Madrid last week, at what diplomats said was West Germany's suggestion, even broached the sensitive question of how to promote change in Eastern Europe, where this century's two world wars have started.

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said: "The challenge is how to encourage change without precipitating chaos." He warned that the West should not appear to be destabilising the Communist camp.

The Western policy of trying to deal separately with the East European countries was rewarded last week, when the European Community and the

Communist trading bloc Comecon initially a joint declaration to open the way for official relations.

The Soviet Union and East Germany immediately applied individually to the community for diplomatic ties, something they had refused to do throughout the EC's 30-year history.

The EC, reluctant to strengthen Moscow's grip on its allies through Comecon, had always insisted that it would only sign the declaration if it could also deal individually with the East Europeans, as Gorbachev has now conceded.

Ironically, however, it is one of Moscow's allies, Romania, which appears to be taking the hardest line in Vienna. Under President Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania has built up a reputation as the most authoritarian state in the East Bloc.

Split in the East?

Romanian delegate Dumitru Aninoin told the conference last week that proposals spelling out the right to emigrate were unacceptable and rejected creation of a permanent mechanism to monitor human rights by signatories of the Helsinki document.

Although Moscow's exact position was unclear, Western officials said some other Eastern European delegates had, told them privately they did not agree with the Romanian line.

Western diplomats speculated that Gorbachev might be unwilling to settle the issue until after a key Soviet party conference opening in Moscow on June 28. They said Warsaw Pact foreign ministers were expected to confer in Warsaw on July 6-9.

"We will sit in Vienna until we get a balanced agreement," one Western diplomat said.

Romanian diplomats denied that Bucharest was blocking the conference and said it wanted to see it wrapped up quickly.

Despite the rhetoric on both sides, the two military blocs have too much at stake to want to torpedo the conventional arms talks, whose mandate NATO and Warsaw Pact officials are trying to draft on the sidelines of the Vienna conference.

The West is anxious to get the talks going because it feels threatened by what it says are much bigger Eastern forces, especially now that nuclear arms reductions are under way.

The East, particularly the Soviet Union, wants to cut the forces to ease the strain on its stretched economy.

NATO officials have been encouraged by the Kremlin's offer to change data on troops and weapons and have it checked on-the-spot inspections, even though U.S. officials at first said the proposal was nothing new.

FROM THE WORLD'S PRESS...

Israeli parties get \$10m from U.S. Jews

AMERICAN Jews have given a record \$10 million in campaign contributions in Israel's two major political parties, a member of the Knesset said Sunday.

Yossi Sarid of the Citizens' Rights Movement called the raising of vast sums from non-Israeli sources "a scandal."

He fears that big donors might ask for favours in return from Israel's next prime minister. His own party hopes to raise \$250,000 in America.

Sarid's figure — neither confirmed nor denied by the big parties of Likud and Labour — comes five months before Israel's elections and could grow by November.

Some individual contributions to the Likud Party of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir or the Labour Party of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres came to more than \$100,000 Sarid said.

He called on Israel's state comptroller to make all campaign contributions public. The parties must report contributions to the state comptroller, but there is no law requiring public disclosure.

The American contributions are on top of money from Israeli donors. Israel's treasury is distributing another \$18.5 million to the parties, depending on relative presence in the Knesset — The Washington Times.

'Hostage talks' part of 'disinformation'

REPORTS from Beirut, that the United States is negotiating with Iran and Hizbollah, the Iranian-backed Party of God, over U.S. hostages held there are part of an anti-American disinformation campaign administration officials said Sunday.

Ahmad Besharati, a senior Iranian foreign ministry official who recently visited Beirut and Damascus, coordinated the campaign, the officials said. It resulted in a spate of reports in the British press and newspapers in the Gulf.

"The Iranians want to draw all of Europe and public opinion, into the problem of Beirut," one official said. They also are using the campaign to strengthen Hizbollah, he said.

The disinformation campaign coincided last month with Syrian and Iranian efforts to quell the fighting between Hizbollah and the Syrian backed Shi'ite Amal militia in the southern suburbs of Beirut where at least some of the approximately 20 foreign hostages in Lebanon — including nine Americans — are believed to be held.

While denying that the administration was talking to either Hizbollah or the Iranians about the hostages, the officials did leave the possibility open that some contact may exist.

"No one here is aware of a dialogue or any discussion going on the hostages with the government of Iran," one official said. "I can never say that there isn't somebody, some turkey somewhere in this government that isn't doing something, but it's very unlikely"

— The Washington Times.

Journalists protest Israeli brutality

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Foreign Press Association of Israel Tuesday protested some 150 incidents of brutality against journalists by police and soldiers in the last six months.

The 200-member association issued the statement at a news conference, focussing on an incident in which police beat up two foreign photographers at a demonstration in Tel Aviv earlier this month. The beating was witnessed by other photographers.

"We demand that the ministry of police investigate and punish those who took part in that incident," said Foreign Press Association Chairman Robert Slater.

"We deplore the statements by public officials that have created an odious public atmosphere."

Slater, a correspondent for Time magazine, said government officials had made repeated statements indicating that the foreign press had fanned the flames of the Palestinian uprising, which began Dec. 8.

He said such statements had "left in the minds of the public the idea that we have orchestrated events, paid kids to throw stones... and this has encouraged 19- and 20-year-old soldiers to do

their thing as they see fit."

In the June 4 Tel Aviv incident, photographers Sven Nackstrand of Agence France Press and Andre Brummann of Alfa Press were beaten by plainclothes and uniformed police while they were photographing a demonstration against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

"I was hit in all directions and struck to the head. I received five or six hard hits on the head, and one felt like an explosion," Nackstrand told the news conference.

Nackstrand, who has worked seven years in Israel, said he was then thrown near a police van and a few minutes later he was pulled into the van. He was held in the van for about 10 minutes until a senior officer, apparently realising he was a journalist, ordered him released.

Slater said the police ministry had failed to reply to a cable sent a week ago and protesting the incident.

Police ministry spokeswoman Mira Firestein said her office had received the cable and asked police in Tel Aviv to investigate urgently, but was still awaiting a reply.

'Jordan has to carry burden'

(Continued from page 1)

asked.

The Crown Prince said that although there was Arab consensus to support the Palestinian uprising there was no agreed-upon criteria for this support and channels to be used.

"We will see in the next six months how Arab support will work," he said, noting that Jordan would remain the occupied land's "window to the east."

He said that at this stage of challenges and threats to Jordan, there was a commitment to "the principle of safeguarding the geopolitical stability of the area called the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan."

Making an assessment of the Alger summit, Foreign Minister Maasi said the conference took a clear stand on the question of the proposed international conference without imposing Arab principles for a settlement as preconditions for convening the conference.

He said the question of Palestinian representation — whether in a separate delegation or within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team — was not discussed.

Maasi said there was no definite amount of financial assistance committed on a collective or bilateral basis during the summit conference. He said the issue was left for further contacts.

On the economic situation in Jordan, the Crown Prince said a serious review was ongoing in the Kingdom of economic problems, including unemployment and poverty and that there was a growing awareness that the situation does not allow for procrastination.

He called on economics writers and columnists to focus on simplifying information to facilitate the people's understanding of ongoing issues. He said that articles on economy need to be supported by a strong information base.

The Regent said there was a need to focus on improving exports and looking into legislation related to industries and the private sector. He said that the banking system must move from their traditional role into a more active developmental role.

He called for establishment of an economic working team that would debate economic issues and problems as they arise.

Dr. Ahmad Mango, an economics consultant to the Crown Prince, said Jordan was an integral part of the region and could not isolate its economy from the rest of the world. "In the past two years, we have achieved economic adjustments in the public and private sectors without tough regulations and restrictions as in other Third World countries. We have kept imports open and maintained the convertibility of the dinar."

He noted that a decline in the rate of imports was achieved over the past two years, spending was reduced and there was currently a pressure towards further reduction of imports and in government consumption.

Mango said the economy had reached stability after a decline in the rate of growth, and that if the economy was not moved, it could stagnate. He said that the private sector was expected to be the engine of growth in the 80s and 90s. He said there would be a mid-term reevaluation of the five-year development plan.

The Crown Prince's meeting with journalists was held at the Royal Scientific Society.



Syrian soldiers relax in Beirut's sunshine

Three Lebanese children abducted

BEIRUT (AP) — The three children of a wealthy Lebanese businessman were kidnapped Tuesday as they were being driven to school in west Beirut, police said.

They said the unidentified kidnapers grabbed Zuhair Ariss' daughter and two sons, apparently seeking ransom money.

A police spokesman said six gunmen in two cars intercepted the children's chauffeur-driver Mercedes-Benz off Beirut's Hamra commercial thoroughfare at 7:45 a.m. (0445 GMT).

They shot the driver in the legs, then they dragged the children out of the car, bundled them into another Mercedes-Benz car and sped away. Other gunmen followed in a white Volvo.

"The gunmen sped away in the two cars. Witnesses who observed the kidnapping evacuated the driver to hospital and informed the police," said the spokesman.

The spokesman said the girl is 14 years old and the boys are aged nine and five.

Members of the family refused to talk to reporters.

The spokesman described the abduction as "an apparent ransom kidnapping." He noted: "The children's father in a wealthy man."

Ariss owns a plush jewelry shop and a foreign exchange company in west Beirut.

There have been numerous kidnappings involving the children of wealthy families in west Beirut in the past three years. Most of the captives have been released and police say ransom was paid.

But the families involved all deny that there were money transactions.

The police spokesman said Syrian troops who control the western sector of Beirut and the Lebanese police launched a search for the kidnapers and the children.

Syria deployed 7,500 troops in west Beirut in February 1987, seeking to end the chaotic reign of militias. It recently sent troops into the capitals impoverished southern suburbs after a bloody battle between rival militias.

An estimated 25,000 soldiers have controlled east and north Lebanon since 1976, when they moved in under an Arab League mandate to try to disengage feuding factions. But the civil war dragged on.

Libyans to withdraw

The prestigious daily Al Nahar newspaper reported Tuesday that

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has ordered 300 Libyan soldiers based in Lebanon to withdraw.

The newspaper said Qadhafi made the decision during the Arab summit meeting in Algiers last week. The Libyan leader met with Lebanese President Amin Gemayal on the sidelines of the conference.

The paper said Libyan Foreign Minister Jaddallah Azouz Al Talhi has been charged with following up implementation of the withdrawal.

The report also said Qadhafi has urged the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

About 600 Libyan soldiers came to Lebanon in 1982 and took up positions behind Syrian army lines in the eastern Bekaa Valley to help fight against Israel's invading army. Iran also sent a contingent of revolutionary Guards.

Both the Libyans and Iranians stayed on after Israel withdrew the bulk of its forces from the country in 1985.

Members of the family refused to talk to reporters.

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Abdul Meguid calls on Israel to sign NPT
Egypt warns nuclear power is no monopoly

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid hinted Monday that his country could become a nuclear power if another Middle East state introduced nuclear weapons into the region.

"Nuclear technology is not the monopoly of a few, it is accessible to all," he said in an address at the special U.N. session on disarmament.

"Egypt will not remain complacent and she will take all necessary measures to ensure her security, once she is convinced that nuclear weapons are being introduced into the region."

Egypt would never allow a nuclear race in which one state became superior, he said.

Abdul Meguid called on Israel to accede to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and put all of its nuclear facilities under inspection and verification

by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). "so that the peoples of the region may be sure that its nuclear programmes are not oriented towards military purposes."

A nuclear arms race in the Middle East would threaten the security of the whole world, he said.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar should be authorised to appoint a personal representative, or a group of experts, to contact the Middle East states with the aim of drafting a treaty and evolve measures to create conditions for a nuclear weapons-free zone, Abdul Meguid said.

The IAEA should be asked to prepare a study and submit specific recommendations for verification and inspection measures in conjunction with the establishment of such a zone, he said.

Abdul Meguid said that since 1974 Egypt had sponsored the idea of a nuclear weapons-free Middle East zone, which in recent years had been endorsed by the General Assembly.

"Such a consensus should be maintained and should not be impaired as a result of the military nature of the nuclear programmes of a country in the region," he said, in what appeared to be an allusion to Israel's nuclear capability.

"The introduction of nuclear weapons in the Middle East, or the threat of introducing them, will lead to grave and complex consequences and would create a very delicate situation."

On June 7, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, but contended that the Arab countries had repeatedly refused to negotiate such an agreement.

Shamir said Israel would not sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty, under which non-nuclear states pledge not to develop nuclear weapons and allow inspection of their nuclear plants, because the treaty has not prevented conventional wars between some of its signatories. Egypt has signed the treaty.

White House shrugs off reported North plan

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House Monday shrugged off a new book that says former presidential aide Oliver North proposed using British hostage negotiator Terry Waite in an attempt to set up Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for assassination.

"We don't look into Ollie North stories," said presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater.

Fitzwater said events involving North, a former staff member of the National Security Council, were "a long time ago. I don't know what he did."

North was fired in November, 1986, after the discovery of an alleged diversion of profits from the secret Iran arms sales to the contra rebels in Nicaragua. North and three other defendants face trial felony conspiracy charges.

A newly published book by CBC network Defence Department correspondent David C. Martin and Wall Street Journal national security correspondent John Walcott said North proposed asking Waite to go to Tripoli to meet with Qadhafi.

Waite would ask Qadhafi's help in freeing the American hostages in Lebanon and then depart, leaving the Libyan leader to spend the night at his compound — where he could be the target of an assassination attempt, according to the book, entitled "Best Laid Plans."

The book said North's plan was quickly rejected.

Fitzwater bristled when a report suggested his seeming lack of interest in North's alleged plot reflected a lack of White House interest in Waite's plight.

"Wait a minute. Wait a minute. We're concerned about Terry Waite. The question was we were concerned about this... story. The answer is no," he said.

Ozal appeals for time to end fundamental Greek-Turkish rifts

ATHENS (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said Tuesday it could take several years to resolve differences with Greece and appealed to the press on both sides to help the healing process.

"Turkish-Greek relations have come to a very critical point. It may be successful, but it may take months, even several years," Ozal told journalists.

Ozal is on a three-day official visit to Athens, part of a peace process launched in January with Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou during talks in Davos, Switzerland.

The visit, which ends Wednesday, has been marked by demonstrations by anti-Turkish groups, including Kurds, Armenians and Greek Cypriots opposed to any rapprochement.

Ozal made clear he was determined to stay the course and persevere along the "long and arduous" path towards normal neighbourly relations between the two North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies.

"It is obvious that we have to solve all the problems between us within a time-frame in order to base Turkish-Greek relations on a sound foundation and transform them into lasting cooperation," he said.

Although he gave no details of the time-frame, he said problems left to fester would "affect our relations adversely" and appealed to reporters for their help.

"I would like to request that both our countries' press should help us out. They should not look for headlines. I think they should look for where we can cooperate more... how you can push us to a conclusion, don't separate us. That is my suggestion," he said.

Although Papandreou and Ozal have discussed the tough fundamental issues which divide their nations, such as Cyprus and disputes over the Aegean Sea region, no progress has been reported.

In the morning, Ozal laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier in central Athens while riot police held hundreds of chanting demonstrators at bay. There was one brief clash which left some bloody noses.

Despite failing to make progress on the big issues, official sources in both delegations said another series of minor confidence-building measures was emerging in the discussions.

This included agreement that Papandreou would pay a reciprocal visit to Ankara and Istanbul in October.

Israeli ex-generals say compromise needed to avert another Mideast war

WASHINGTON (R) — Four retired Israeli generals called Monday for compromise on the Palestinian issue, saying present Israeli-Palestinian tensions would eventually bring an Arab-Israeli war.

Retired Major-General Aharon Yaviv said the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza "sooner or later will lead to a drawing together of the Arab states against Israel... which can lead to war between us and the Arabs under conditions which will be more difficult to us than any other."

Three other retired Israeli generals who held a news conference with Yaviv calling for peace talks with Palestinians told Reuters they agreed with his statement.

The four generals are leaders of an Israeli organisation called the Council for Peace and Security which proposes putting most of the occupied West Bank and

Gaza under control of some demilitarised Palestinian entity.

Yaviv said he personally would not mind calling it a Palestinian state but said it would have to be demilitarised while Israeli forces would remain able to resist any Palestinian fighting or other military action.

The council also calls for some unspecified arrangement for Israel to be able to prevent any invasion across the Jordan River into the West Bank and on into Israel. It also calls for a transition period to the new Palestinian control.

Yaviv said he believed Israeli settlers who chose to remain in the occupied territories would be under Palestinian rather than Israeli control.

But the generals refused to say specifically how much of the occupied territories should be returned, saying they were calling for negotiations.

They disagreed among themselves about details. Yaviv saying the Golan Heights between Israel and Syria should be subject to negotiation but retired Major-General Ori Orr saying they should not.

Yaviv was director of Israeli military intelligence from 1964 to 1972. Orr was chief of staff in 1981 of the Israeli central command, which includes the occupied West Bank.

Also at the news conference were retired Brigadier-General Yoram Agmon, an air force fighter pilot and squadron commander during the 1973 war, and Brigadier-General Ephraim Sneh, former head of "civil administration" for the West Bank.

The news conference was arranged by the American Jewish Congress, which said the four generals were to explain their views to U.S. Jewish groups nationwide Tuesday via satellite television.



Esmat Abdul Meguid

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The prestigious daily Al Nahar newspaper reported Tuesday that

OPEC may extend current pact

VIENNA (R) — OPEC ministers, anxious to buoy sagging oil prices but divided on how to do it, looked Tuesday as if they would simply extend a current accord on output curbs until the end of the year.

Differences on how high prices could be pushed and fall-out from the Gulf war between OPEC founder members Iraq and Iran had compelled mediators to search for a compromise on what to do when the current pact expires at the end of this month.

It appeared Tuesday after four days of talks in Vienna that the ministers would end up agreeing to disagree.

"I think there is an understanding for a rollover for six months," Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azadeh told reporters at the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) conference.

The current accord, regarded as flawed by some OPEC leaders, assigns output quotas to 12 of the 13 members within a ceiling of 15.06 million barrels daily.

Iraq refused to sign it because it could not get a quota equal to that of Iran.

Iran's Azadeh indicated Tuesday that he thought Iraq would continue to remain outside the group's output controls.

Iraqi production raises total OPEC volume to about 18.2 million barrels daily. At least in recent months, this has been too high to propel prices to OPEC's target of \$18 a barrel and they are as much as \$4 below that level.

While predicting an agreement to extend the existing accord, the Iranian minister said nothing was certain. Talks could last until Wednesday, other delegates said.

Gold and oil prices have dipped in world markets because of OPEC's show if disarray. Gold, a hedge against inflation, fell because lower oil prices suggested a

reduced risk of inflation.

During the conference United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mana Said Al Otaiba left unexpectedly, saying his quota was meaningless. But he was expected back Tuesday.

Iran threatened to withdraw from the OPEC quota system and Iraq kept up its refusal to be involved.

The atmosphere was soured early on when Iranian speedboats attacked a British-flagged tanker off the coast of Saudi Arabia. Another Gulf shipping attack was reported Tuesday.

Delegates said that, in the fraught atmosphere, there did not seem much prospect of resolving basic differences to come up with a new and possibly more solid output agreement for the rest of 1988.

A majority of eight members wants tighter curbs on output to drive prices up, but Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies favour slightly increased production, delegates said.

Saudi Arabia has consistently been wary of any OPEC move to tighten the market to the extent that prices rise sharply.

In bilateral talks it also became clear that the complex question of which grades of oil should be included in group-assigned output quotas was too difficult to solve here.

Some members accuse others of skirting quota limits by redefining some of their production. One vexed question is whether condensate natural gas counts as crude oil.

Little progress appeared to have been made on persuading Iraq to join the accord, delegates said.

Some delegates expected OPEC to announce another meeting with exporters from outside the group to discuss joint output cuts.

Talks with six non-OPEC producers in April ended with OPEC in disarray after the Saudis differed with the majority on the scale of production curbs.

TCC revenues rise

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) last year increased its revenues by JD 20 million and improved its performance from previous years. TCC Board Chairman and Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan announced Tuesday.

The TCC now has assets estimated at JD 224 million and all financial reports indicate that the TCC is able to come up with funds to carry out projects included in its current five year plan, the minister said at a TCC board meeting held to discuss the corporation's final accounts of 1987.

The board reviewed measures to be taken for implementing the government's decision to transform the TCC into a public shareholding company, with the government and government affiliated bodies owning all of its shares in the first stage.

The final accounts indicate that the TCC's financial situation is good, but show that a certain sector of telephone subscribers were not

paying their dues despite the TCC's various efforts through the media and personal contacts over this issue, Haj Hassan noted.

The TCC, he said, has recently taken a number of measures designed to offer subscribers a chance to pay their dues in monthly instalments. As a result, payments last month increased by 20 per cent over the figures given in May 1987.

TCC Director General Mohammad Shahid Ismail said in a statement to the press last month that plans were being made for the transformation of the corporation into a public shareholding company which will be operating on the basis of generating profits.

He said a great deal of change has to be introduced in the TCC's administrative, organisational and financial systems.

The transformation process will be gradual and the first step will entail the creation of shares which initially will be owned by the government and later offered to the public, Ismail said.

Ministry considers selling olive oil at low prices

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply is reported to be studying the prospect of selling locally produced olive oil to government employees at JD 20 (for every 18 kilograms) which is to be paid over four months, according to Al Ra'i Arabic newspaper.

The newspaper said that the Ministry of Supply was contacting

different departments to sound out their views about the new arrangement before announcing the decision.

The Ministry of Supply used to sell every 18 kilograms of oil for JD 26 before lowering the price to JD 24 and now to JD 20.

No reason was given for the reduction of price.

Government weighs setting up fund for industries

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Dustour Arabic newspaper reported Tuesday that the studies are being made by concerned authorities for setting up a national fund to offer loans for industrial projects in the Kingdom.

The paper said that the projected fund would be managed by the Industrial Development Bank in cooperation with the Central

Bank of Jordan, the Social Security Corporation and banks or financial institutions in the Kingdom.

The paper said that the fund would offer loans in accordance with studies on each case separately, and in the light of the market situation against a certain margin of fees.

Chinese press praises unemployment concept

PEKING (R) — Nearly a quarter of China's urban workforce is superfluous and unemployment is inevitable and good for the economy, the official press said in an unprecedented attack on the concept of full employment.

The People's Daily Monday said up to 30 million workers, out of the total urban labour force of 130 million, had nothing to do and passed time on the job playing poker or chess, watching television or racing on bicycles.

For three decades China has adhered to full employment, one of the basic tenets of its Socialist leaders, and boasting that unemployment is found only in capitalist countries.

But this army of underemployed costs the state up to 60 billion yuan (\$16.2 billion) a year

in wages and benefits, equal to half of what the treasury receives in taxes and profits from state-owned industries, the paper said.

It warned that this gross overstaffing, with most people working only three to four hours a day, led to low efficiency and was turning China into a nation of slackers.

Even more surprising, an article in Economic Information said unemployment was inevitable and good for the economy.

Previously, China did not speak of "unemployment" but of those "waiting for work", saying their number was few.

The article said that, in capitalist countries, unemployment was in the open, while in Socialist ones it was concealed inside state companies and factories.

"In China under the old system, for ideological and policy reasons, unemployment was not allowed and surplus labour could not be pushed onto society," it said.

But this must change under the reformed economy, in which enterprises seek maximum profit and minimal labour costs. For this they need the best workers and unemployment is inevitable, it said.

Although unemployment means a drop in living standards and mental suffering for those without work, it makes the economy more rational, the daily said.

It also gives people a sense of risk, so that they stop wasting time on the job and encourages them from having children they may not be able to support.

"The question is no longer whether there is unemployment or not," the article said.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for June 14, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	229537	JD 263402	356
Top three companies:			
Jordan Sulphochemical			
Industries	16350	JD 39474	26
Arab Investment Bank	12000	JD 25200	3
Arab Aluminium	13550	JD 22714	16
Parallel market:	26526	JD 11326	—
Development bonds:	453	JD 4829	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8145/55	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2180/90	Canadian dollar
	1.7250/57	Deutsche marks
	1.9335/65	Dutch guilders
	1.4412/22	Swiss francs
	36.03/08	Belgian francs
	5.8190/8220	French francs
	1281/1282	Italian lire
	125.07/17	Japanese yen
	6.0110/60	Swedish crowns
	6.3020/70	Norwegian crowns
	6.5510/60	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	450.35/450.85	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices closed lower for the fifth consecutive session as investors once more loaded off stocks across the board. The All Ordinaries index was down 17.8 at 1568.8.

TOKYO — Prices closed slightly higher in quiet trade as investors refrained from taking big positions before the release of the U.S. April trade figures. The Nikkei index rose 25.26 to 28,061.80.

HONG KONG — Shares were higher but late profit-taking pared earlier gains slightly. The Hang Seng index gained 25.28 to 2,672.70.

SINGAPORE — Shares recovered after early losses and closed marginally higher on speculative buying and bargain hunting. The Straits Times index rose 2.56 to 1,045.30.

BOMBAY — Prices fell sharply on heavy selling triggered by fears that stiff carry-forward charges will be set Friday. Tata Steel dropped 18.25 rupees to 856.75.

FRANKFURT — Most shares closed slightly lower as dealers adjusted positions ahead of the release of U.S. trade data for April. The Commerzbank 60-share index, calculated at mid-session, fell to 1,421.1 from 1,425.9.

ZURICH — Shares were little changed to slightly higher. Some banks rose. The All Share Swiss index gained 1.73 to 854.53.

PARIS — Favourable U.S. April trade figures sparked a rapid flurry of buying and reversed the earlier trend. The 50-share bourse indicator showed a 0.55 per cent gain.

LONDON — Prices were boosted strongly by U.S. April trade figures giving a trade deficit much lower than the market had anticipated. At 1423 GMT, the FTSE 100 index was up 19.5 at 1,858.3.

NEW YORK — Stock prices, especially blue chips, surged forward on figures showing a slower-than-expected U.S. trade deficit in April. The market later settled down at the higher level. The Dow gained 30 to 2,130.

U.S. trade deficit shrinks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. trade deficit shrank to \$9.89 billion in April, the lowest level since December 1984, the government reported Tuesday.

The Commerce Department said a steep drop in imports helped push the deficit down by 15.5 per cent from the revised March figure of \$11.7 billion.

The report on the closely watched trade figures was likely to be cheered on financial markets because economists had expected the deficit to worsen, not improve, in April.

The government said that Americans' appetite for imports declined by 6.4 per cent to \$36.1 billion last month. Exports were also down, but by a smaller 2.5 per cent to \$26.2 billion. The trade deficit is the difference between imports and exports.

The improvement gave the country its first single-digit trade deficit since a \$9.90 billion imbalance in August 1985. It was the lowest imbalance since an \$8.03 billion deficit in December 1984.

The March deficit was originally reported as a single-digit figure as well as \$9.7 billion. But that was before the department began adjusting to take into account seasonal factors.

After those adjustments, the March deficit grew to \$11.70 billion. Beginning with the April report, the department will report only seasonally adjusted figures in the hope that the adjustments will smooth out some of the erratic swings that in past months have sent financial markets into a tailspin.

The original February deficit, which was higher than expected, sent the dollar plunging in value around the world and pushed the Dow Jones industrial average down by 101 points, its fifth-worst loss ever.

The markets were not particularly cheered by the March trade improvement, because it showed a steep rise in imports along with a record level of export sales. Financial investors worried that the big rise in imports indicated that faster domestic demand would lead to higher inflation.

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World Bank president urges more private investment in Third World

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barber B. Conable, president of the World Bank, urged business people of industrialised countries Tuesday to resume making investments in Third World nations.

Conable told a U.S. Chamber of Commerce meeting that the annual flow of net foreign investment to Third World countries reached \$15 billion in 1981, but has since dropped by a one-third.

But he said some movement was already under way.

"When a South Korean firm chooses to buy into a textile mill

in Togo — one of the Francophone countries... that were supposedly off-limits to non-French capital — or Japanese work out a way to revive a Venezuelan iron-ore processing facility, it is clear that the scope of private sector activity is widening and the pace is accelerating, Conable said.

The two projects are being aided by the International Finance Corporation, the part of the World Bank group that lends to private business. The rest of the bank, owned by 151 governments, is the chief source of aid loans to Third

World governments.

Conable noted that the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, recently set up under bank auspices, will sell insurance to private business against war, violence and hostile actions by governments.

He also urged the U.S. Congress to appropriate funds to enable the United States to buy its share of the new stock being offered to governments in a general increase of the World Bank's capital.

"Until Congress acts to approve a callable commitment

of \$14 billion and to appropriate the first of six instalments of \$70 million in paid-in funds, America will have a diminished presence in the institution it brought to life," he said.

Only \$420 million needs to be appropriated. The rest of the capital is on call, but no call has been made in the bank's 44 year history. Enough governments have already pledged participation so that the capital increase can go into effect, enabling the bank to boost its lending from an annual \$17 billion now to well over \$20 billion in the 1990s.

Reagan stresses more economic coordination among Western allies

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan called Monday for "a joint venture" between the United States and other industrialised democracies to

strengthen economic policy coordination, open more markets and ease the debt burden of poorer nations.

Previewing the points he will

push at the seven-nation economic summit commencing Sunday in Toronto, Reagan also said that finding "a common offensive" against money laundering and drug trafficking is of utmost importance.

In a speech to the Atlantic Council, a group that makes policy recommendations on the development of democracies around the world, the president also said there should be greater efforts to restore the economies of the Philippines and Afghanistan.

Reagan used much of his speech to extol the virtues of his own economic policy of lowering tax rates, easing government regulation and otherwise encouraging U.S. business investment, and said he believes that many of the other industrialised democracies have begun to follow the U.S. pattern.

"This new consensus (on economic growth strategy) has not only brought the economies of America, Britain, Canada and so many other countries roaring back, it also has opened the way for coordination of economic policy among the summit countries that would have been unthinkable just a few years ago," he

said. Reagan will join the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan at the summit, which runs from Sunday through Tuesday and will be Reagan's last.

In his speech Monday, the president made it clear he thinks the summit partners should move with greater speed on the question of agricultural subsidies.

"In no field do we have more weeding to do than agriculture, where subsidies cost the consumers and the taxpayers of Europe, North America and Japan \$200 billion a year," he said.

The president noted that agriculture has been a principal item on the agenda of the so-called "Uruguay Round" of trade talks, but said not enough has been accomplished there.

"Those talks were scheduled to go for four years. They are now nearing the half-way point," he said. "It's time to narrow down and lay out specific goals, a road map and a timetable to the finish line."

"In Toronto, we, the heads of the major industrial states, can push our ministers to have that job completed by year's end. No excuses," he concluded.

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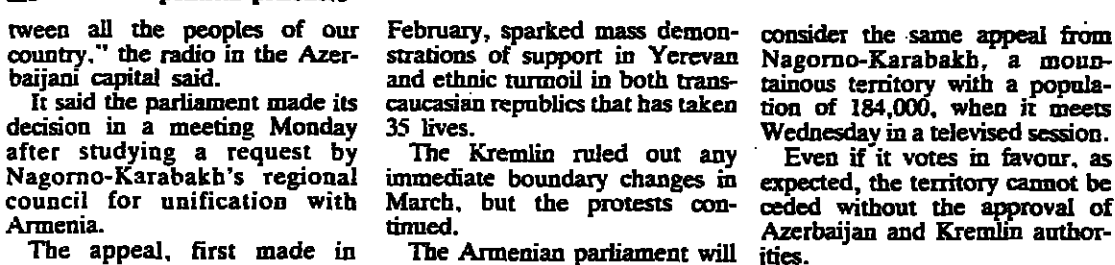
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MOSCOW (R) — Protesters in Yerevan called off a strike Tuesday after being assured of official support for uniting disputed Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia but the Azerbaijani parliament said it would not yield the territory.

A general strike that brought Yerevan to a standstill Monday was cancelled after Arutunyan promised a crowd of 100,000 that the Armenian parliament would back their demands, a spokesman said.

LEGAZPI, Philippines (AP) — Communist rebels ambushed a passenger jeep, killing 12 civilians and wounding four other people, including two of seven soldiers aboard the overloaded vehicle, military officials said Tuesday. In a report to the Philippine Constabulary Regional Command here, Colonel Andres Superable, constabulary commander in Albay Province, said the vehicle was enroute from a remote village to the town of Caramoran when it was fired on by rebels Monday. He said the soldiers, some of whom rode on the vehicle's roof, returned fire and engaged the rebels in a 15 minute battle. He said nine civilian passengers were killed on the spot and three more died on the way to a hospital. The reports said the rebels suffered an undetermined number of casualties.



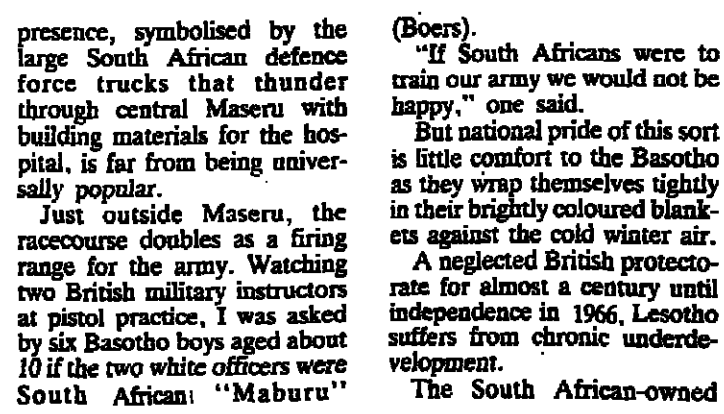
The new cross-border cordiality has replaced the confrontation of the Jonathan years, when South African troops regularly raided Maseru in search of African National Congress (ANC) members. In one such attack in 1982, 42

combatants. "It should be clear that Lesotho is an independent state and Lesotho is not prepared to take any instructions from any country, regardless of how small we are," he explained. The growing South African

Just outside Maseru, the racecourse doubles as a firing range for the army. Watching two British military instructors at pistol practice, I was asked by six Basotho boys aged about 10 if the two white officers were South African. "Maburu"

A neglected British protectorate for almost a century until independence in 1966, Lesotho suffers from chronic underdevelopment.

The South African-owned



And when freak snowstorms cut off huge areas of the country last October, it was South Africa which supplied helicopters for the rescue operation.

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Prince Charles have joined in a campaign to win for Britain one of the greatest private art collections in the world, news reports said Monday. The 1,600 paintings of Swiss baron Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza are regarded as the finest art collection in private hands after that of Queen Elizabeth II. The paintings are conservatively valued at £780 million (\$1.41 billion). In the fierce international competition for the collection, Spain has been regarded as the favourite. The baron, grandson of the Ruhr steel magnate who armed German forces in World War I, made a commitment to Spain to show the bulk of his paintings in Madrid for at least 10 years. But government sources in London confirmed Monday that Thatcher has written to the baron.

rated from her family a decade ago when they fled Vietnam in a crowded fishing boat had a tearful reunion with her parents and sister Monday. Mahn Quay Chang was left behind after the vessel's captain warned that his boat was too crowded with refugees and said they could take only of their two children. The mother, Chao Thi Thanh, and the father, Chao Hung, selected their five-month-old daughter Chau Dong because of her age. Mahn Quay was left in the care of a grandmother. Their only contact since 1978 had been through an exchange of letters. "The first thing I'm going to do is take her to the shopping mall," Dong, now 10, told reporters as she met her older sister at San Francisco international airport. Mahn Quay, her cheeks streaked with tears, accepted a bouquet of balloons and a box of candy from Dong.

Christie's Saturday, setting a record price for 20th century American decorative art, the auction house said. A Christie's spokeswoman said the pagoda-shaped bronze and glass lamp was made in 1903 for the Robie House in Chicago, the most famous of the so-called "prairie-style" houses designed by Wright at the start of the century. She said the previous record price for a piece of 20th century American decorative art was set last year when Christie's sold a dining room table and eight chairs designed by Wright for \$594,000. The spokeswoman identified the buyer only as a New York art dealer.

LONDON (AP)—A West German cargo ship Monday rescued an English yachtsman whose vessel sank after an apparent attack by a herd of whales during a trans-Atlantic yacht race, the coast guard said. A distress message received by the coast guard in Falmouth said the yacht had come under attack by whales about 1,600 kilometres west of the southwest tip of England, the defence ministry said. David Sellings, 41, who was competing in the Carlsberg single-handed trans-Atlantic race, told rescuers the 7.5-metre yacht sank in 10 seconds but that he managed to recover his dinghy and set off a distress beacon. Sellings escaped unhurt, the coast guard said.

LONDON (AP) — The telephone company launched a new service for culture-lovers Monday — dial-a-poem. For 38 pence (7 cents) a minute, British Telecom's customers can hear five-minute recordings of leading poets reciting their verse. Calling dialing 0898-222255 could hear John Heath-Stubbs, 70, saying "I'm very happy to be the first poet to be recorded in this dial-a-poem series, before reciting from four of his poems, raising the subject from Noah's Ark through cats in poetry to clocks and space." Heath-Stubbs is among six contemporary poets chosen for dial-a-poem. It's too soon to tell whether the innovation will continue the 19th-century historical Thomas Macaulay's conviction that "as civilisation advances poetry almost necessarily declines." But something clearly is afoot. The London subway has begun displaying tracts of Shakespeare, Burns and De La Mare on some of its trains, and a year ago the railroad company organized poetry readings at some of its stations.